

August 10, 1998
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King sends message to Morocco's monarch

RABAT (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a private message to King Hassan II of Morocco delivered in Rabat Sunday evening by the King's advisor Salah Abu Zeid. The envoy discussed with King Hassan issues of common concern to Jordan and Morocco, while the Moroccan king expressed his wishes for the King's speedy recovery and safe return to the nation.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراي.

Government denounces U.S. embassies' bombings

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government on Monday denounced the bombings which targeted the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. "We condemn all kinds of terrorist attacks and those who finance them. We consider these acts as cowardly and heinous," said Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour. "Such acts will not solve problems... this is a dangerous game which will bring harm to all parties," the minister said, adding that "the Jordanian government has no information on any involvement of Jordanians in these attacks." The minister was responding to a question on unconfirmed reports that Jordanians were linked to the bombings in Dar Es Salaam and Nairobi, where 150 persons killed and more than 4,824 persons were injured.

Volume 23 Number 6913

AMMAN TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1998, RABI II 19, 1419

Price: Jordan 200 fils

Jordan celebrates 46 years since King's accession to the Throne



Regent to King: Rest assured we are directing our efforts towards solving problems in deeds rather than words

against foreign domination. On the eve of the anniversary, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, sent a message to King Hussein expressing his good wishes and noting that the Jordanian people take pride in the achievements accomplished in the past four decades.

Prince Hassan said that Jordan enjoys stability and security and is undergoing continued progress due to King Hussein's wise leadership and directives.

The Regent said that even though the achievements are great the responsibilities are also great and "we beg that Your Majesty rest assured that we are capable of handling these responsibilities and that we are directing our efforts towards solving problems in deeds rather than words."

He added: "We have faced unjust and unconstructive criticism which can only throw dust in the

eyes of those working amongst us. The way to achieve reassurance is through renouncing greed and hostility which are the source of distress and tragedy everywhere. We will not be discouraged by the roughness of the road because our commitment and our will are strong and solid as they have always been."

In his message to the King, the Regent said: "We will pursue every effort to secure the needs of the nation in an atmosphere of security, stability and democracy because meeting the needs of the people is our most important objective as Your Majesty has mentioned in your letter addressed to me few days ago."

In celebrating the anniversary, Jordanians recall the King's untiring efforts in developing Jordan into a model democratic state and his sincere and

dedicated efforts to achieve Arab solidarity, and defend Arab causes. The King's work to move Jordan back into the foreground of regional and international momentum towards the 21st century has been recognised.

On the eve of the anniversary, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the occasion represents a symbol of the continued sacrifices and achievements accomplished by the Jordanian people under the King's leadership over more than four decades.

Petra said that the King's endeavours continue on the path of political pluralism, democracy and respect for human rights.

As for the peace process, the King has spared no effort towards pursuing the attainment of the Arab Nation's aspirations in a just and comprehensive

(Continued on page 7)

Regent receives Congress team

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, received Monday a six-member U.S. congressional delegation on a fact-finding mission on bilateral relations and the Middle East peace process.

Addressing the visitors at a luncheon which he hosted with Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, the Regent spoke about Jordan's current efforts towards peace and security in the Middle East and means of promoting U.S.-Jordan relations, particularly in the economic and trade fields.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Senate



Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Princess Sarvath receive the U.S. congressional delegation on Monday (Photo by Boghos)

Speaker Zeid Rifai, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'd Hayel and other officials.

Ensour calls for resolving Iraq-U.N. dispute peacefully

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour on Monday said Jordan is opposed to any military action against Iraq and called for peaceful means to settle differences with the U.S. over U.N. inspections.

Ensour, who was speaking to reporters during the weekly briefing, said the Iraqi people would be the party to pay the price in case of a U.S. military strike.

"We do not want any [party] to resort to military confrontation because the Iraqi people will pay the price," Ensour said.

Ensour was referring to Iraq's decision to halt its cooperation with the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) following unsuccessful talks with the committee's chairman Richard Butler.

The Iraqi decision prompted UNSCOM to suspend its inspection activities.

The U.S. Congress earlier this month approved a resolution calling for "appropriate action" by Washington

to bring Baghdad into compliance with its international obligations, such as disarmament.

Defence Secretary William Cohen warned that the U.S. has a "robust capability" in the Gulf and is ready for "any contingencies," after Iraq ended cooperation with U.N. inspec-

tioned such a siege on any people... we hope that efforts will be directed towards lifting their suffering," Ensour added.

Meanwhile, Ensour said that the Kingdom wants to develop its relationship with Iran despite "major differences" between the two countries.

"Iran is an important state in the region and it is not wise to freeze our relations with Tehran... we want relations to grow despite differences in opinion between the two sides. Differences do not mean severing ties," the official said.

Ensour who was commenting on Foreign Minister Jawad Anani's visit to Iran this week who on Sunday handed over a message from King Hussein to Iranian President Mohammad Khatami.

Among the major differences between Tehran and Amman is the Kingdom's peace agreement with Israel, which Iran staunchly opposes.

"We want Iran to understand our position and circumstances and deal with us accordingly," Ensour said.

'History has never witnessed such a siege on any people'

tors. However, the U.S. said that it will judge Iraq by its "deeds and not words."

Ensour, in addition, urged the international community to lift the seven-year-old sanctions on Iraq, imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"We in Jordan do not wish to see blood shed in Iraq irrespective of the reason. We appeal to all parties to work in order to contain any developments," he said.

"History has never wit-

By Royal Decree:

Hourani takes over water portfolio

Ensour: Committee investigating crisis to submit report on Wednesday, next week

By Ahmad Khatib
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Royal Decree was issued Monday accepting the resignation of Munther Haddadin, minister of water and irrigation, after a public outcry over the contaminated water crisis that caused a nationwide panic since early July.

The same decree named Mohammed Hourani, minister of energy and mineral resources as acting minister of water.

Haddadin on Sunday submitted his resignation to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali requesting immediate leave from his post after deputies circulated petitions calling for his resignation on the basis that his ministry tackled the water crisis in a manner that lacked credibility and transparency.

The government had issued contradictory statements after the start of crisis when residents of west

Amman complained of foul-smelling water that had a strange taste and colour.

Initially, officials blamed unusual levels of algae found in the water on soaring summer heat, but later said the problem was caused by human and operational errors at the Zai Water Treatment Plant (ZWP).

Al Arab Al Yawm daily had published excerpts from a preliminary report by the American water consultancy firm, Stanley Consultants, highlighting the findings that the Yarmouk River, Lake Tiberias and Mukhaibeh had high concentration of faecal coliforms (body waste).

The report, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times, concluded that the ZWP was suffering from "severe constraints that have been added to the plant since its initial design."

"These constraints

include a Yarmouk River water source that has become highly contaminated with faecal coliforms, and a new source from Lake Tiberias which contributes high concentrations of algae and total organic carbon. Additionally, these abnormally high loading, particularly the algae, are not consistent over time," the report read.

Deputy Prime Minister and Information Minister Abdullah Ensour Monday said the committee investigating the recent water crisis will submit its final report on Wednesday, next week.

"The committee is working hard on the issue and it is too early to discuss any results," Ensour told the press during a regular briefing.

Upon the request of His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, ordered the government to form an independent com-



THIRSTY IN AMMAN: Youngsters gather around a fresh water tap to collect supplies Monday in the wake of the country's water crisis (AFP photo)

mittee to probe the crisis and pinpoint the responsible parties behind it.

The committee is chaired by Justice Ministry's Secretary General Eid Lawzi, and includes Ibrahim Badran, the director general of Palestinian Affairs at the Prime Ministry, as well as representatives of the general corporation for environment protection at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Royal Medical Services and the University

of Jordan. However, some deputies protested that the formation of such a committee translates into the government investigating itself.

"The Higher Judicial Council is the neutral party which has the authority to investigate such a case," said Deputy Salameh Hiar, head of the Parliamentary Committee of Water and

(Continued on page 7)

Press savours 'last dance' before final endorsement of law

By Amy Henderson
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As the press enjoys what is possibly its last hurrah while awaiting the Senate's final approval of the draft press and publications law, journalists and political activists hope that the lessons in democracy offered by this summer's tug of war between the public and the government will not be lost.

"We have always believed that our civil society is weak, that under pressure, people will follow the government line, that they will remain silent on crucial issues even though they have the right to act," said Hani Hourani, director of Al Urdun Al Jadid

Research Centre. "The press has recently challenged these ideas and shown us a different side of ourselves."

The country's newspapers have been under attack since 1997 when the government introduced temporary amendments to the 1993 Press and Publications Law, overturned in January at the High Court of Justice.

Since then, the atmosphere in which the press has worked has grown more formidable. This spring, the government stepped up a campaign against the newspapers in the courts and subsequently

(Continued on page 7)

Ensour defends House endorsement of draft Press and Publications Law

By Amy Henderson
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government yesterday defended the Lower House's endorsement of a draft press and publications law, expected to be handed to the Senate this week.

Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour yesterday told journalists the law was a victory for the press since it ended the executive's authority over the media.

"This law is an important step towards press freedom," said Ensour, during

a press briefing. "It upholds the right to investigate issues freely and express opinions at liberty. At the same time, the government was absolved of any control of the media, and all authority was placed within the judiciary."

The plenary Sunday voted in favour of a 60-article draft, which for the first time in the Kingdom's history, will allow the closure or indefinite suspension of newspapers at the Court of First Instance's behest.

The government's origi-

nal draft was subjected to a rigorous second reading by the House's National Guidance Committee (NGC) which dealt several blows to the government's proposal. It substantially reduced the capital requirement for weekly newspapers from JD150,000 to JD50,000 and scrapped a requirement that daily and weekly newspapers deposit bank guarantees worth JD100,000 and JD50,000, respectively in Ministry of Information accounts to

(Continued on page 7)



ARAB BANK
is honoured to convey to
HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN
and to the Jordanian people
its felicitations and most cordial wishes
on the anniversary of
HIS MAJESTY'S ACCESSION TO THE THRONE.



ARAB BANK

Hizbollah fires Katyusha rockets near Lebanese-Israeli border

TYRE (AP) — Hizbollah members fired more than 20 Katyusha rockets in south Lebanon early Monday, and many landed near Lebanon's border with Israel, Lebanese security officials said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties. The rockets apparently were fired from a site close to Yater, a village three kilometres north of the frontier, the officials said.

The rocket barrage came after attacks late Sunday by Hizbollah on at least two out-

posts of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia in southeastern Lebanon. Details of the attacks were not immediately available.

No casualties were reported in those attacks either, said the officials. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

Israel has maintained a self-styled "security zone" in southern Lebanon since 1986 to try to protect against cross-border guerrilla raids.

In Israel, Israeli radios said that three road-side bombs

exploded overnight as Israeli patrols were passing.

They said that a number of vehicles were slightly damaged and that one Israeli soldier was treated for shock.

The Israeli army said that on Sunday, Hizbollah forces attempted to attack an SLA post in southeastern Lebanon.

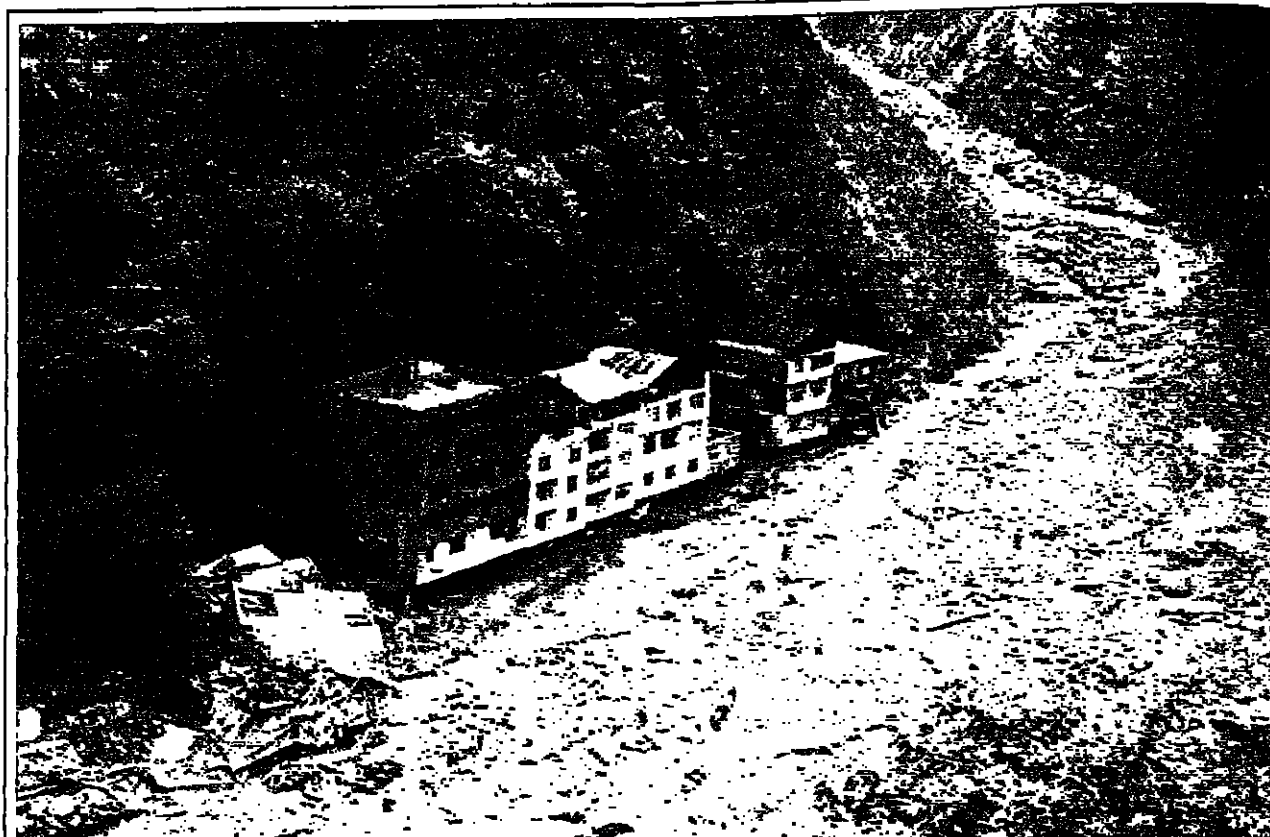
One of the Hizbollah members reached a guard post, and an Israeli soldier fought him off until other troops arrived, the army said. It said the Hizbollah member fled,

leaving his weapons behind.

The Sunday attacks were claimed by the Shiite Muslim Amal movement.

Israel responded with shell fire toward suspected Amal and Hizbollah hideouts. A 70-year-old Lebanese man was wounded when a mortar shell crashed close to his house in Majdal Zoun, which is near Yater.

The area around Yater often has been used by Hizbollah group as a launching pad for attacks on Israeli troops and its allied militia.



FLOODS IN TURKEY: An aerial photo shows buildings damaged by floodwater which swept through the Beskoy village, east of the Black Sea city of Trabzon, on Sunday. Seven people have died and around 50 are reported missing after floods swept through the village near Turkey's eastern Black Sea coast. The flooding was out of step with a heatwave that has swept much of the rest of Turkey over the last two weeks (Reuters photo)

25 armed Islamists killed in Algeria — press

ALGIERS (AFP) — Security forces killed 25 armed Islamists in the last few days in the west of the country, where a number of massacres left more than 50 dead in recent weeks, local press reported Monday.

Nineteen armed Islamists died during an army operation still underway in the areas of Tiarret and Saïda, where village massacres July 26 and August 2 left around 30 dead, the dailies L'Authentique and Le Quotidien d'Oran said.

This sweeping operation was launched in the wake of the recent spate of massacres, the papers said, which L'Authentique attributes to the Al Ahouel (Terror) wing of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA). The other six Islamists were killed Saturday in Medea, in the south, the paper La Nouvelle Republique reported.

Press estimates of casualties are often exaggerated and rarely confirmed by the security forces.

Security forces said last week that they had killed 141 armed Islamists in around 30 operations between January and July this year.

Palestinian rights group says inmate beaten to death in jail

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A human rights group charged on Monday that a West Bank man who died in the hands of Palestinian security forces this week was killed by head injuries and not heat stroke as reported by police.

Walid Al Qawasmî, a 45-year-old insurance salesman from Bethlehem, died Sunday while being taken to hospital from the jail in the Palestinian-run Jordan Valley enclave of Jericho, Palestinian National Authority officials said.

Police said Qawasmî apparently died of a heart stroke in his cell as temperatures in the Jericho area soared to 47 degrees centigrade amid a region-wide heat wave.

An autopsy was ordered as part of a Palestinian police investigation of the death of Qawasmî, who was jailed in July on suspicion of financial crimes linked to the insurance office he managed.

The Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group disputed the official account of Qawasmî's death.

"Eye witnesses who took part in the autopsy told the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group that Qawasmî died from a haemorrhaging of the brain caused by a fracture in his skull," the group said in a statement.

"The fracture was caused by severe beating to the head," the group said.

A Palestinian intelligence

official rejected the allegations and accused the right group of spreading "lies and nonsense."

"Initial medical tests conducted by the prison doctor showed that the prisoner died because of the heat," the official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

"The cut to the head was not deep and happened when the prisoner fell down two weeks ago," the official said.

On Sunday the chief of Palestinian police intelligence in the West Bank, Tawfiq Al Tarawi, said he had ordered an autopsy and a full investigation into the death.

The coroner was due to submit his official report to the Palestinian justice ministry later on Monday.

Iran calls for U.N. action to free diplomats in Afghanistan

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran urged the United Nations Monday to take urgent action to secure the release of 10 of its diplomats and a journalist kidnapped by the Taliban militia in Afghanistan at the weekend.

Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi sent a letter to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan calling for "multi-faceted efforts and immediate help" to get its nationals freed, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Iran says the diplomats and an IRNA correspondent were seized after a raid by the militia on its mission in Mazare-Sharif, a city in northern Afghanistan which was captured by the militia Saturday from the anti-Taliban opposition.

Iran state radio said the kidnapped Iranians had been transferred to the Taliban stronghold of Kandahar in eastern Afghanistan.

The radio, citing foreign ministry officials, also said it had information that the Iranians "are in good health" despite an earlier statement from a Taliban official that

they may have died.

Militia spokesman Wakil Ahmad Mutawakil said Sunday the diplomats were not in the Iranian consulate in the anti-Taliban stronghold when their forces rolled in Saturday.

"They might have gone with retreating forces, they may have hidden or they may have been killed," Mr. Mutawakil said. "When the Taliban went into the consulate there was nobody there."

He said the diplomats had not been identified among any prisoners captured by the militia, and described allegations from Tehran that they had been kidnapped as "totally baseless."

But in a telephone conversation with Pakistani Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz, Mr. Kharazi rejected Taliban's claim.

"This is not true. There is no doubt they are in the hands of the Taliban," he said, adding that Islamabad and the Taliban "bear responsibility for the lives and safety of the staff at Iran's consulate" in Mazare-Sharif.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Palestinian student detained by Israel

BETHLEHEM (AFP) — Israeli troops arrested the president of the Bethlehem University student union on Monday as he was travelling between Bethlehem and Ramallah on the West Bank, relatives said. Amin Hussein Kamel, 27, was detained by troops guarding the main Israeli checkpoint between Arab east Jerusalem and the city of Ramallah, his brother Imad Kamel said. "He was arrested about noon as he tried to pass through the checkpoint south of Ramallah," Imad Kamel told AFP. An Israeli army spokeswoman was unable to comment immediately. Amin Kamel is in the Fateh movement of Palestine President Yasser Arafat and spent six years in Israeli jails in the late 1980s and early 1990s for activities linked to the intifada uprising against Israeli occupation.

Heat claims 10 more victims in Cyprus

NICOSIA (AP) — A blistering heat wave claimed 10 more lives overnight on the island of Cyprus, the Health Ministry said Monday. The latest deaths raised to 45 the number of people who have died since Friday. Many of the victims were elderly. Weathermen said temperatures were expected to rise again to 43 degrees Celsius. That temperature is the highest recorded in more than 40 years, the weather bureau said.

Iran to set up labour camps for addicts

TEHRAN (AP) — Iran plans to set up labour camps for drug addicts, and prisoners currently jailed for drug offences will be moved to them, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Monday. The agency said the camps would be ready by next March. It did not say how many camps would be built or where they will be. It also gave no figures for the number of jailed addicts or what kind of medical treatment would be available for them. IRNA quoted the country's judiciary chief, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, as saying that after the camps are set up, drug addicts detained by police would be sent there rather than to prisons.

Turkish homosexuals seek asylum

AMSTERDAM (AFP) — Two Turkish homosexuals have asked for political asylum here because they said they had been persecuted for their sexual preference in their homeland, the Dutch news agency ANP reported Monday. The men were in Amsterdam to attend last week's Gay Games during which they held a traditional Islamic prayer session to draw attention to the plight of homosexuals in Turkey. The unidentified men, founders of the officially-unrecognised Islamic Homo Union in Turkey, will be sent to an asylum seekers centre where their case will be considered, a police spokesman said.

Turkey wants AWACS, missiles to strengthen defence

ANKARA (AFP) — The Turkish government wants to equip its armed forces with AWACS radar surveillance planes and build its own missiles to bolster its air defences, press reports said here Monday.

On July 25, the ministry of industry and defence (SSM) invited three American and an Israeli company to bid for the sale of four high-altitude AWACS planes to Turkey, they said. Plans to buy the new equipment, which will cost at least \$800 mil-

lion, form part of Turkey's programme of modernisation within its armed forces.

The U.S. firms are Lockheed Martin Corp., Northrop Grumman Corp., and Boeing Co., while the one from Israel is Phalcon.

According to the centre-left daily Cumhuriyet, Turkey also wants to produce missiles to strengthen its aerial defences against neighbours Greece to the west, Syria to the south and Iran to the east. Turkey already has a joint project

with Israel to produce surface-to-air missiles.

According to Cumhuriyet, a British military delegation is expected in Ankara in September to explore the possibility of joint production of Rapier 2 missiles.

Last Friday, Turkey made clear its unhappiness with recent Iranian missile tests, and with the sale to Greece just approved by the Pentagon of portable surface-to-air Stinger missiles. Ankara fears that some of this

equipment might fall into the hands of the Turkish separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which is waging an armed uprising against the government.

Furthermore, Ankara opposes the installation of S-300 missiles in ethnic Greek territory in Cyprus as they could be transformed into offensive weapons and threaten Turkish Cypriots, as well as the Turkish mainland.

In a wide-ranging programme, aimed at upgrading its weapons sys-

tems, Turkey foresees spending \$150 billion over the next 30 years to provide for local production of military equipment.

Already agreed on is a \$575 million contract with Germany's military shipbuilders HDW for joint production in Turkey of four new submarines for the Turkish navy.

The U.S. company Sikorsky Aircraft is also reportedly close to reaching an agreement with Turkey to sell military helicopters worth about \$700 million.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 4773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:10Cartoon — The Pink Panther

15:30Small Talk — "Quiz Show"

16:00Border Town

16:30D.V. — Baby It's You

17:00D.V. — Skeleton Coast

18:00French Programmes — Les Cœurs Brûlés

19:00Le Journal

19:15French Programme — Fractales

19:30News headlines

19:35Step by Step — "Snow Bunnies"

20:00What Would You Do?

20:30Encounter

21:10Mini-series —

22:00News in English

22:30Feature film — The Sound of Music

23:59Metro Cafe

00:30End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:26Fajr

05:52Sunrise/Duha

12:41Dhuhr

16:21Asr

19:30Maghreb

20:55Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Sweifich, Tel. 5920740

Assemblies of God Church Tel.

4632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590

Terra Sancta Church Tel.

4622366

Anglican Church Tel.

4624853/4624811

St. Afram Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751

Arman International Church Tel. 865897

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5685404

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932

St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440

Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138

Church of Presentation, Sweifich Tel. 5920146

The United Catholic Church Tel. 4624757

The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190

Evangelical Free Church Tel. 892679

The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052

The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

The American Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Relative hot weather conditions will prevail with temperatures dropping slightly but remaining above average by 3-5 degrees centigrade. In Amman, it will be hot, windy, northerly moderate and sunny.

Amman 22/35

Aqaba 26/41

Deiratz 22/36

Jordan Valley 27/41

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 36, Aqaba 42. Humidity readings: Amman 45 per cent, Aqaba 55 per cent.

Following are the highest temperatures expected today in the following areas:

Ajloun 33

Jerash 38

Um Qays 37

Madaba 39

Petra 39

Dead Sea 41

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mukhlis Mazharah 592425

Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyib 4620115

Dr. Wisam Hayawi 4748563

Dr. Nizar Abu Zaid 4125011

Al Aserna pharmacy 4637055

Al Salam pharmacy 4636740

Shamsi pharmacy 4637640

Nairoukh pharmacy 4624672

IRBID:

Dr. Ghazi Ta'ameh 252822

Al Quds pharmacy 1

ZARQA:

Dr. Ziyad Jghatim 992991

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Focal Control Centre 4637111

Civil Defence Department 5661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 4630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 4621111, 4637777

Fire Brigade 4617101

Blood Bank 4775121

Highways Police 5343402

Traffic Police 4896390

Public Security Dept. 4630321

Hotel Complaints 5661176

Water & Sewerage Complaints 4897467

Amman Municipality Complaints 4787111

Telephone Information (directory)

AMMAN:

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199

The Islamic, Abdi 59441317

Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 5856856

Lazima 4630195

Khalil Maternity 4642818

Al-Khaleel Maternity 4624412

Jabal Amman Maternity 4622662

Mallat, J. Amman 4636140

Palestine, Shamsam 5407071

Shamsam Hospital 540131

University Hospital 5334444

Al-Muasher Hospital 5662279

Al-Abdi, Abdi 5661646

Italian, Al-Muhareen 4777101/3

Al-Bashir 4775111/26

Army, Marka 4891611/5

Queen Alia Hospital 59224050

Amal Hospital 5674155

ZARQA:

AMMAN:

Dr. Ghazi Ta'ameh 252822

Al Quds pharmacy 1

ZARQA:

Dr. Ziyad Jghatim 992991

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Focal Control Centre 4637111

Civil Defence Department 5661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 4630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 4621111, 4637777

Fire Brigade 4617101

Blood Bank 4775121

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The Islamic, Abdi 59441317

Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 5856856

Lazima 4630195

Khalil Maternity 4642818

Al-Khaleel Maternity 4624412



MARKING ACCESSION DAY: A state worker Monday puts up a poster of His Majesty King Hussein on an office block in Amman. The King marks 46 years on the Throne on August 11 (Reuters photo)

Crown Prince attends graduation ceremony of Royal War College

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday said developing and implementing new concepts requires a strong will accompanied by intensive follow-up.

Addressing the 10th graduating class of the Royal War College, the Regent said: "We, the government, Parliament, and civil society institutions, shoulder the responsibility to meet this goal through establishing a sustainable partnership based on a fruitful dialogue whose aim is to serve the public interest within the framework of the state of law and institutions."

Prince Hassan touched upon regional issues, pointing to the recent nuclear tests in the Indian subcontinent, which he said proved the ineffectiveness of the current security measures and arrangements to halt the spread of mass-destruction weapons.

The Regent called for strengthening these arrangements within a new framework of security that transcends the narrow military

concept to a wider one valuing human, political, social and economic security.

"Unfortunately, arms spending is on the rise at the expense of an intensive joint effort to support the regional development process," he said.

Prince Hassan said regional stability cannot be realised if development efforts fail to provide a dignified livelihood and social and economic security for people. He added that violence is an outcome of "desperate economies," a situation that will not end without adequate responses.

"The world no longer tolerates the existence of 35,000 nuclear warheads, and our region cannot stand to be treated... with a narrow-mindedness that gives priority to private interests rather than public interest," the Regent said.

"Arms exporting countries should change their unilateral outlook to our region and adopt a comprehensive view that takes into consideration the people's interests and aspirations in a prosperous, stable and safe life."



HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, flanked by HRH Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Abdul Hafiz Mirai Kaabneh, attends the graduation ceremony for the 10th graduating class of the Royal War College (Photo by Boghos)

"We in the region should rearrange our priorities and establish regional ties based on cooperation and integration," he added.

At the end of the ceremony, Prince Hassan presented diplomas to the graduates.

Attending the ceremony were Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Abdul Salam Majali, Chairman of

the Joint Chiefs of Staff Abdul Hafiz Mirai Kaabneh, Special Forces Commander HRH Prince Abdullah and senior officers of the Armed Forces.

Court upholds 1995 death sentences

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Criminal Court Monday sentenced five men to death for a second time at the conclusion of one of Jordan's longest trials after upholding their May 1995 convictions for murder and armed robbery.

In its 100-page ruling, the Criminal Court reaffirmed its previous decision and handed down the death sentence again to Khader Jaber, Mubarak Suleiman, Khalid Issa, Yousef Ayed and his brother Imad, all members of a group known as the "Udwan Mills Gang."

Five other people affiliated with the group, including two women, had their sentences of 10-15 years in prison for "plotting criminal acts" reduced to seven years with temporary hard labour.

The five, who have been in detention since 1992, were released from prison "since they have already served their sentences."

The 10-member group, including eight from the same family, was accused of committing a total of 230 crimes, including the five murders, thefts, attempted murders, pos-

sessing automatic weapons, kidnapping, using forged documents and other violations.

They were indicted and charged with the murder of Second Lieutenant Mahmoud Eloun in Nov. 1989; Sergeant Ziad Awamleh in March 1990; Raja Lasha, a Sri Lankan housekeeper, in April 1990; Rasmieh Atiyat, a Madaba resident, in July 1991; and Emil Khashram, a Shmeisani resident, in Nov. 1992.

According to the Criminal Court's May 1995 ruling, the primary evidence used by the prosecution was the defendants' own confession to murder and robbery and their guilty plea.

However, the Court of Cassation ruled 10 months later that the Criminal Court could not base its sentencing on the confessions since "all the defendants claimed they were interrogated by the authorities under duress."

But in yesterday's ruling, the Criminal Court said "it was proven to us that the defendants were never subjected to any torture, neither during their detention or trial."

Regarding contradictory evidence that was found at

Khashram's house following the murder, the court said it was "confident that two of the five defendants were the actual killers."

Last year, the Criminal Court sent hair samples found under the nails of Khashram for examination to determine whether or not the hair belonged to defendants Imad and Yousef Ayed.

The hair was found not to match that of the suspects.

The two men, along with Khader Mubarak, were accused of robbing and killing Khashram, 70, in his Shmeisani home on Nov. 22, 1992.

"It was proven to us from the defendants' confessions that they committed the crime, because they told interrogators details that no one could describe unless he/she was present at the scene of the crime," the court said.

But the defendants' attorneys told the Jordan Times following the conclusion of the one-hour court session that they were not satisfied with the decision.

"because the Criminal Court did not follow the Court of Cassation's ruling."

The five defendants released were Mohammad Ayed,

Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Hassan, Amneh Mohammad and her daughter Nisrin.

They were convicted of participating in the thefts by renting cars that were used in the robberies and buying properties, including the Udwan Mills farm, with the stolen money.

The group was nicknamed the "Udwan Mills Gang" because they were captured in a police raid in the Udwan Mills village near the town of Sukhneh.

The group has faced four different trials over the past six years, including one State Security Court tribunal, to which they were referred when they were first captured by the authorities.

The courts heard more than 200 witnesses in one of the longest cases ever held in the Kingdom.

Two other persons allegedly affiliated with the group were found innocent by the Criminal Court in May 1995.

Monday's verdict, which was handed down by Justices Mohammad Ajamreh, Mifteh Mubaidin and Issa Hamdan, will automatically be reviewed by the Court of Cassation within 30 days.

University students suspend hunger strike

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Four students protesting a decision by the administration of the Applied Sciences University (ASU) to suspend them have put a hunger strike on hold "temporarily" pending a final decision from the university to reverse the punishment.

A student council member at the ASU, who asked not to be named, said the students suspended their open-ended strike following promises from the administration to cancel the one-year suspensions.

He told the Jordan Times that the university administration had been scheduled to discuss the issue at their meeting yesterday but postponed it until its next meeting on Wednesday.

"They told us that they would look into our appeal and reconsider their decision, but if they fail to fulfil their pledge, we will have another word with them," the student council member said. He did not elaborate.

"The university chairman has promised to look into the matter in a fair and just manner, and we are awaiting his final word," he added.

The ASU president, Suleiman Arabiyat, was not immediately available for comment.

Rami Jabir, Mohammad Shadi, Ra'd Binar and Mohammad Lutfi started their strike on Saturday but ended their short-lived protest following pledges from the administration to reverse their decision.

The four students were dismissed for their role in distributing a statement on campus following the administration's decision to close the student council's campus office.

The statement called for an investigation of alleged "mismanagement" by the university's administration, among other demands.

Arabiyat on Saturday accused "outsiders" of attempting to politicise the students and interfere in the university's affairs. He declined to name these parties.

But the student council member denied Arabiyat's accusations and said their actions merely covered "students issues."

"The statement that was distributed among the students did not include any political issue. Our demands are to extend more services to the students and improve the efficiency of the administration," he added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

King receives letter from Tarawneh

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday received a letter from the chief of the Royal Court, Fayed Tarawneh, in reply to the King's letter expressing condolences over the death of former Senator Ahmad Tarawneh. In his reply letter, Tarawneh voiced his clan's appreciation of the King's sympathy.

Prince Hamzeh received by Sultan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Sultan of Brunei, Hassan Bolkiah, Monday received His Royal Highness Prince Hamzeh, who conveyed greetings from their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor. Prince Hamzeh congratulated the Sultan of Brunei on the crowning ceremony of Prince Muhtadi Billah. The Sultan of Brunei expressed his wishes for the speedy recovery of King Hussein.

Work on new college begins

ZARQA (Petra) — Arab Bank Board Chairman Abdul Hameed Shoman on Sunday laid the foundation stone of the College of Economy and Administrative Sciences at Hashemiyeh University. Shoman has donated a sum of JD2 million to support the university's scientific research programmes, and another JD500,000 to the university's general fund.

what's going on

SHABAB FESTIVAL ZARQA MAIN THEATRE
* Children's play "The Peacock" at 6:00 p.m.
* Performance by the Iraqi National Group at 7:30 p.m.
* Musical performance by Nahawand at 8:45 p.m.
* Musical performance by Fou'ad Hijazi at 9:45 p.m.

FILM
* Children's film "Bumper Special, Rosie & Jim" at the British Council, Jabal Amman on Wednesday Aug. 12 at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS
* Photo exhibition on old buildings of Salt entitled "Engravings on the Wings of Time" at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Aug. 13.

Construction of vocational training centre completed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) announced Monday that it has completed the construction of a building at the Sahab Industrial Estate south of Amman to serve as a metal industries institute.

A VTC statement said the 6,000 square-metre institute was built on a 10,000 square-metre plot of land at the cost of JD4,071,410. The state treasury partly covered the cost of construction.

The statement noted that the institute is expected to help the government deal with the problem of unemployment by turning out highly trained people to fill the needs of the local labour market.

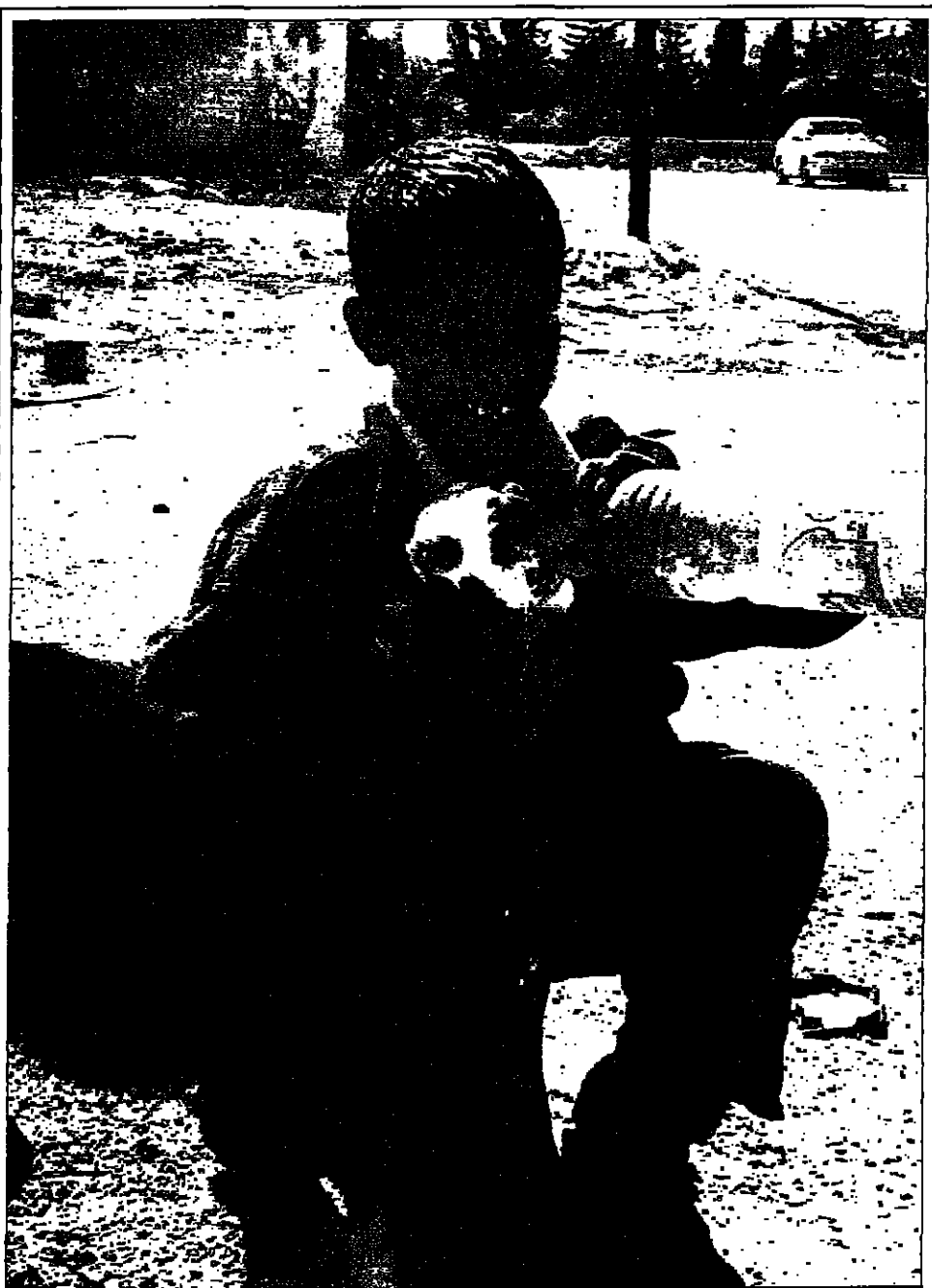
The institute will organise short- and medium-term training courses in modern metal

industries in order to raise the level of the vocational training system in the country, the statement added.

It said the institute will offer training courses in metal casting, welding, thermal treatment of metal and metal moulding and painting, among others.

The government covered 25 per cent of the cost of the institute while a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) grant provided 45 per cent. The World Bank covered the rest, the statement added.

It said the government provided the plot of land and covered 50 per cent of the cost of construction while the Japanese grant included equipment for the workshops and a Japanese team of instructors.



HEAT WAVE CONTINUES: A shepherd boy gives his thirsty goat a drink of water Monday in Amman. The country has been hit by the heat wave affecting Europe and the Middle East, with temperatures rising up to 40 degrees Celsius in Amman (Reuters photo)

Pilot agricultural projects under way to help women in poor areas

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two pilot "permaculture" projects aimed at addressing health and environmental issues while incorporating sustainable development techniques have been introduced at a refugee camp and an impoverished village in southern Jordan, relief officials said Sunday.

The schemes, launched at the northern Hoson camp, which houses tens of thousands of Palestinian refugees, and the Ain Beid village in the southern governorate of Tafleeh, are designed to help boost agricultural production to help women generate income.

CARE International Jordan, in cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), are backing the two schemes to help improve the quality of life of thousands of poor Jordanians.

"Permaculture, or permanent agriculture, enables people to establish productive environments providing for food, shelter and energy," Fadi Sharaiha, agricultural projects coordinator at CARE International Jordan, told the Jordan Times.

Australian agricultural engineer Bill Morton

developed the concept of permaculture in 1974 to create sustainable systems for the present and the future. It entails analysing the environment, available resources and needs.

Sharaiha said 35 women at the Hoson Camp have been receiving training in permaculture since January.

The project falls under CARE's agricultural unit for the identification of environment-friendly and socially-viable techniques to help those in need support themselves.

The \$50,000 Hoson Refugee Home Gardens project will be financed by the Canada Fund for one year before it can stand on its feet.

Through permaculture, women at the camp now use planters made from recycled rubber tires as well as barrels, balconies and rooftops to develop home gardens.

In addition, a special greenhouse has been erected for women to experiment with permaculture's various planting techniques.

"Women have been learning composting, rooftop water collection and storage, and integrated pest management, among many other organic farming techniques," Sharaiha added.

The women in the pro-

ject also use a bamboo structure called "Fatin's tent" to experiment with banana and mango planting.

Recycled water is being used in this project for home gardens and for the permaculture site as part of efforts to conserve scarce water resources. Participants also learn water harvesting techniques to collect water during winter for use in the hot and dry summer season.

UNRWA and CARE are providing women with planting materials under a soft loan as part of a revolving finance scheme.

"The project is implemented through UNRWA's Women's Programme Centre at the camp with the aim of contributing to the capacity building of local women's groups," said Suad Alwan, UNRWA social services field officer.

Such agricultural projects, she said, will contribute to improving home economics by providing refugee families with healthy and cost-effective products.

According to CARE officials, the success of these two projects will pave the way for setting up a regional training centre in Amman. Meanwhile, eight similar training stations will be set up in different parts of the Kingdom.

Taleban in total control of Mazar-i-Sharif

KABUL (AFP) — Afghanistan's Taleban forces were Monday in total control of the northern stronghold of Mazar-i-Sharif after a two-day operation to mop up pockets of resistance, independent and opposition sources said.

A senior official of the anti-Taleban opposition alliance conceded several attacks had failed to dislodge the Taleban from the key city, but vowed a counter-attack was being prepared.

"Last night there was some fighting and some alliance troops succeeded in entering Mazar-i-Sharif and pushing the Taleban to the west of the city," ousted Kabul government representative Ahmad Wali Masood said in a telephone interview.

"However, due to lack of coordination and ammunition they were forced to retreat and the Taleban are now back in control of the city," he admitted.

Masood, the brother of anti-Taleban topgun Ahmad Shah Masood and diplomatic representative for the ousted Kabul government in London, said a fresh counter-attack was in preparation. "Our forces are still gathering and are preparing for a fresh attack which could begin at any time," he asserted.

Independent sources said earlier that Mazar-i-Sharif — the last major city which had remained outside of Taleban control — was quiet, although several bodies were still lying on the roads after the fighting.

"The Taleban appear to be in full and overall control of the city," reported one source who asked not to be identified.

The sources said the

Taleban, posted at key junctions, had ordered residents not to leave their homes while the mopping-up operation was in progress.

Taleban officials said their forces were in positions throughout the city, about 450 kilometres north of Kabul.

"There are no opposition forces in Mazar-i-Sharif to even oppose us," said militia spokesman Abdul Haq Mutmaen. "We are in total control of the city and have also cleared areas to the south."

In Islamabad meanwhile, an Afghan information agency reported that a commander loyal to Uzbek warlord Abdul-Rashid Dostam and 500 soldiers surrendered to the Taleban in the northern province of Kunduz Monday.

The Afghan Islamic Press (AIP), quoting Taleban officials, said Abdul Qadar and his men laid down their arms in the Qalae Zal district and were taken into custody. It said they gave up after the fall of Mazar-i-Sharif.

There was no independent confirmation.

It was the Taleban's third attempt to take Mazar-i-Sharif after they were brutally cut down in the maze of dusty streets in May 1997 when they were double-crossed by a short-lived ally.

In May 1997 the Taleban seized control of Mazar-i-Sharif after joining ranks with Abdul Malik, a former Dostam ally.

But when a deal over power-sharing broke down, Malik returned to the opposition fold and massacred at least 2,500 Taleban soldiers.

The Taleban also entered the city limits last September but their forces were beaten back in heavy

fighting.

The anti-Taleban alliance includes Dostam, the ousted government of president Burhanuddin Rabbani and topgun Ahmad Shah Masood, the Shiite Hezb-i-Wahdat and several other splinter groups.

Meanwhile, Iran urged the United Nations Monday to take "urgent" action to secure the release of 10 of its diplomats and a journalist whom it says were kidnapped by the Taleban in Mazar-i-Sharif.

Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi sent a letter to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan calling for "multi-faceted efforts and immediate help" to free its nationals, the official IRNA news agency reported.

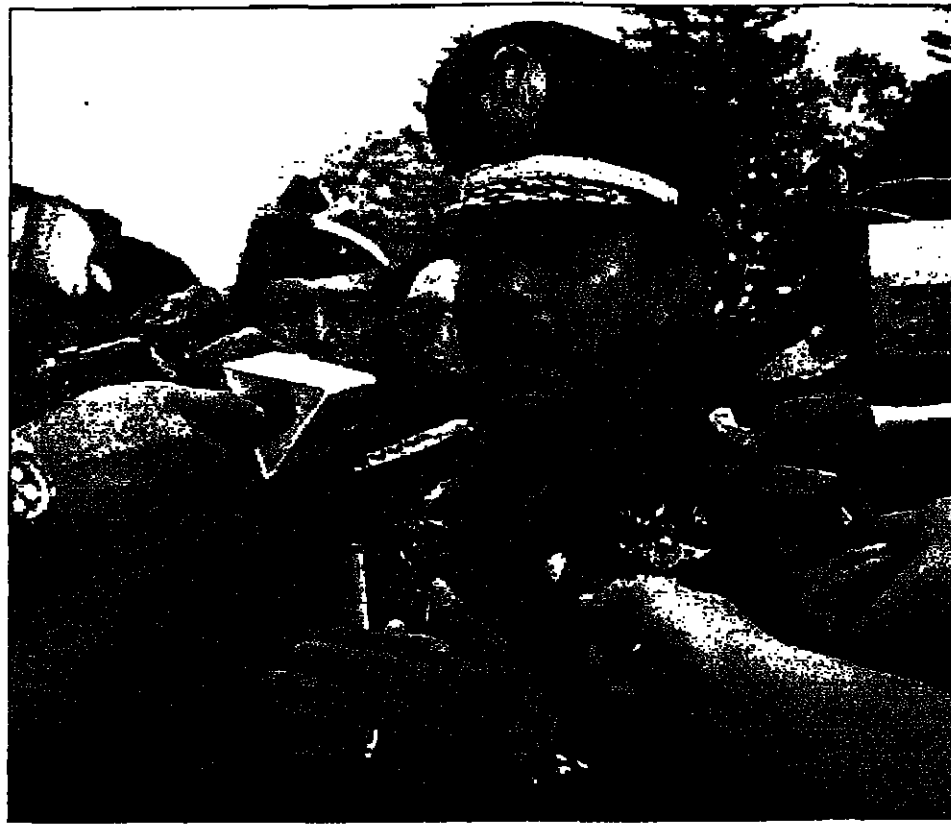
Iran says the diplomats and an IRNA correspondent were seized after a raid by the militia on its mission in Mazar-i-Sharif.

Iran state radio said the kidnapped Iranians had been transferred to the Taleban stronghold of Kandahar in eastern Afghanistan.

The radio, citing foreign ministry officials, also said it had information the Iranians "are in good health" despite an earlier statement from a Taleban official that they may have died.

Militia spokesman Wakil Ahmad Mutawakil said Sunday the diplomats were not in the Iranian consulate in the anti-Taleban stronghold when their forces rolled in Saturday.

The Taleban hold more than two-thirds of civil-war ravaged Afghanistan including the capital Kabul and have imposed what they say is the world's purest Islamic state.



Indonesian army commander General Subagyo Hadiswoyo, as head of military board in charge of investigating the kidnapping of political activists, speaks to reporters after questioning Lieutenant General Prabowo, son-in-law of former President Suharto at the military strategic force headquarters in Jakarta. Prabowo took the stand Monday in a probe into political kidnapping that could end his military career (Reuters photo)

Indonesian military quiz Suharto's son-in-law over abductions

JAKARTA (AFP) — An Indonesian military council Monday questioned a son-in-law of former President Suharto in the second week of an investigation into the abduction and torture of activists, Army Chief General Subagyo said.

"It is true that today (Monday), we have sought information from Lieutenant General Prabowo, Colonel Chairawan and also several witnesses," Subagyo told journalists shortly after the Officers' Honour Council met for close to seven hours.

He did not give the identity or number of the witnesses.

Prabowo Subianto, Suharto's son-in-law and two other senior officers, Chairawan and Major General Muchdi, are being investigated by the council over allegations of abducting and torturing political activists earlier this year.

"The investigation was about the cases of the disappearances," why Lieutenant General Prabowo did things such as this," Subagyo said at the army headquarters where the investigation took place.

Subagyo chairs the nine-member council set up by the country's military chief General Wiranto on Aug. 3 to probe the three officers over the alleged abduction and torture of scores of activists.

He has said the council would only make recommendations to the head of the armed forces, but should there be any indication of criminal acts, the officers under probe could also be brought to court.

Prabowo, the overall commander of the special

forces (Kopassus) at the time of the kidnappings, is married to one of Suharto's three daughters. He was the third and last of the senior officers to be probed by the council.

The council last week interrogated Muchdi, a former senior general of the Kopassus, and Chairawan, the head of a Kopassus special operations unit.

All three officers have been suspended from their current positions in the military pending the council's findings.

Council members have also visited the Kopassus headquarters in Jakarta where many believe the kidnapped activists had been held and interrogated.

"It is not true that there was an order (for the kidnappings) from the armed forces chief," Subagyo said, but he added general instructions might have been interpreted by Prabowo in his own manner.

"We are still gathering the necessary data and hopefully we can soon report (the findings) to the armed forces commander ... We also want this to be done quickly but we will not be too hasty," Subagyo said.

He did not exclude further questioning of Prabowo.

Subagyo told the Republika daily in an interview carried Monday Prabowo and the two other officers questioned, would all have their own defence counsels, but he declined to elaborate.

The council will only make recommendations on the case to the military chief, he told the daily, adding any military commander, when issuing orders "is responsible for

the order and its implementation."

"If his underlings make a mistake, he (the commander) is responsible because the order came from him."

Wiranto has already admitted the Kopassus was involved in the kidnappings and preliminary results of a probe showed the Kopassus command had issued orders to "uncover several movements then considered radical and jeopardised government programmes and public security."

When announcing the council's establishment, Wiranto also said seven non-commissioned officers and three privates would be brought before a military tribunal on suspicion of involvement in the abductions and torture.

At least 24 political activists have gone missing since early this year. Nine of them resurfaced after months of absence and spoke of being abducted, kept in solitary detention and tortured. Fourteen are still unaccounted for.

There has been mounting pressure for the authorities to locate the missing activists and bring those guilty of kidnapping and torturing them with electric shocks and beatings to court.

Prabowo was pushed out of his position as commander of Kopassus and reassigned to head the army's command and staff training college in Bandung shortly after Suharto was ousted on May 21 following violent pro-reform riots.

Prabowo, who arrived in uniform by car at 8:20 a.m. (0120 GMT) was seen leaving the army headquarters through the back entrance around 3:45 p.m. (0845 GMT), witnesses said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. lawsuit blames nuclear fuel plant for cancer cases

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A trial to determine whether a nuclear fuel processing plant is responsible for eight cases of cancer could set the tone for more than 200 related cases in the United States. Eight people who have cancer or represent others who died of the disease have sued Atlantic Richfield Co., Babcock and Wilcox Co. and B-and-W Nuclear Environmental Services Inc., the successive operators of the plant in Apollo, about 30 kilometres northeast of Pittsburgh. The trial, scheduled to begin Monday, is expected to take three weeks. The lawsuit, filed in 1994, will serve as a test for more than 90 personal injury cases, about 120 property damage cases and a class-action lawsuit seeking medical monitoring for residents. The other cases are on hold. The plant processed uranium as fuel for nuclear reactors and submarines from 1957 to 1978. In the early 1990s, it was torn down, and more than 22,700 cubic metres of soil and debris was shipped to a radioactive waste disposal site. Three state health studies and one federal study showed no unusual rates of cancer or birth defects around Apollo, near a subsidiary plant five kilometres away in Parks Township, however, studies found a high rate of cancer among female residents. Lawsuits by residents near the plant's uranium processing plant never should have been built in a residential neighbourhood. Alfred Wilcox, an attorney for the companies, said the areas where radioactive material might have become airborne were enclosed, and the air was filtered. Even if radioactive material was released, it probably had nothing to do with the cancers, Wilcox said.

Genetically altered food could harm human health

LONDON (AFP) — Genetically altered potatoes fed to rats resulted in retarded growth and reduced immunity, according to a Scottish study published here Monday which said such altered food products could also harm human health. The results of the study, done at the Rowett Institute in Aberdeen, drew an immediate call for a ban on such foods in Britain, where an increasing number of food products contain genetically altered ingredients. "We are assured that this is absolutely safe and that no conceivable harm could come to us from eating it," said Arpad Puzari, the researcher who directed the 100-day study. "But if you gave me the choice now," he added, "I wouldn't eat it." The British agriculture ministry said the Rowett study would be looked at closely, but stressed that genetically altered food products approved for human consumption thus far posed no danger to humans. "All novel foods, including genetically modified foods, are rigorously examined... before they can enter the food chain in the U.K. and the government is confident that each food that has been approved so far is safe," said a statement. However, Liberal Democrat MP Norman Baker said: "The new health findings are a genuine concern and show that we have become the guinea pigs in a gigantic experiment." Baker last week revealed that genetically altered foods had been taken off the menu at the House of Commons restaurant. "The government has been irresponsible and lax, and the only thing to do is ban" genetically modified food, he said.

Prisoners in Hague tribunal jail planning uprising

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Prisoners held by the U.N. war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia have discussed plans for an uprising following the death of a Serb suspect during his trial, a Serb doctor said Monday. Slobodan Ivanovic visited the tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, last week, shortly after the death of Milan Kovacevic, a Bosnian Serb charged with genocide and crimes against humanity. Kovacevic was reported to have died of a heart attack in his prison cell. But Ivanovic said Kovacevic died slowly and painfully from a ruptured aorta. He said Kovacevic appealed for help for five hours, but guards failed to appear. "All prisoners, Serb, Croat and Muslim, banged their doors to call for the guards. They pressed the alarm bells but there was no response. When the prison cells were finally opened all the prisoners rushed to help Kovacevic," Belgrade's Beta news agency quoted Ivanovic as saying. Ivanovic said Kovacevic's death had a bad effect on the prisoners, most of whom reportedly suffer from depression. "What is more, an uprising had been planned and a general strike," said Ivanovic. The status of such plans since his visit on Aug. 1 wasn't clear. Asked about a potential uprising, a representative of the U.N. tribunal press office who declined to be named said: "Nothing is known to us. ... If there are complaints, they are always dealt with the charges."

BA sticks to ban on carrying Rushdie

LONDON (AFP) — British Airways said Monday that its ban on author Salman Rushdie travelling on its aircraft was still in force as it launched three times a week non-stop flights between London and Tehran. The airline imposed the ban after Iran's late spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued a fatwa, or religious decree, in 1989 condemning Rushdie to death for "The Satanic Verses," deemed blasphemous by many Muslims. BA said that the safety of its passengers was "paramount." Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said earlier this year that Iran had offered oral statements that it would not send anyone to kill the author, but had not provided written assurances of his safety. A spokeswoman for the airline, which has been operating the flights with a stopover in Baku, Azerbaijan, said: "Safety is paramount to BA and we feel it is not appropriate to carry him. It is something that is always under review."

Estrada asks Communist rebel leader to come home

MANILA (AFP) — Philippine President Joseph Estrada Monday urged Filipino Communist rebel leader Jose Maria Sison to come home for peace talks. "I am inviting our friend Jose Maria Sison to return since both of us have only one objective — to lift the poor from poverty and make the country a peaceful and quiet place to live in," Estrada said in a radio interview. Sison, who founded the underground Communist Party of the Philippines in 1968 and is believed to be its chairman, has been living in exile in the Netherlands since he was released from prison in 1986. He has said he fears for his life if he returns to the Philippines and has sought political asylum in the Netherlands. The Philippine government said last week it hopes to restart peace talks with Communist insurgents early next month and Estrada has ordered his negotiators to complete the negotiations in one year. Peace talks which started with an agreement on human rights and humanitarian international law, yet to be signed by Estrada.

Cambodia poised to strike down opposition vote fraud complaints

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Cambodian election authorities are poised to reject all of the opposition's hundreds of complaints of vote fraud and irregularities in last month's polls, officials said Monday.

Wholesale rejection of the allegations could ratchet up the possibility of a constitutional crisis as the opposition has vowed not to recognise the results of the July 26 polls and boycott parliament unless its complaints are resolved.

Official preliminary results show the winner of the election to be strongman Hun Sen's de facto ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) which will have a majority in parliament but not the two-thirds necessary to form a government on its own.

Rejection of the complaints, expected to come Tuesday at a meeting of the National Election Committee (NEC), would leave the opposition with only one recourse for redress of its grievances — appeal to the Constitutional Council. Cambodia's two main opposition parties, which say both bodies are biased in favour of the CPP, have submitted more than 800 complaints citing widespread abuses of electoral regulations in more than half the country's nearly 1,600 vote counting stations. But NEC officials said Monday most of those complaints were repetitious or lacked enough merit to be considered, adding that only 304 allegations had survived preliminary examination.

Tuesday, the NEC will look into those 304 complaints — 110 about voter intimidation, 172 recount demands and 22

instances where preliminary results are being rejected for other reasons — but is not expected to refer any of them to a formal hearing, officials said.

"These are the most serious, the ones that there might be enough evidence to take to a hearing, but maybe we will have no hearing," NEC spokesman Samraing Kamsan told reporters.

He said recounts already conducted at the opposition's request in seven municipalities in four provinces had turned up no evidence of the kind of fraud and irregularities alleged.

"Already we can conclude there was no cheating and fraud, just slight technical problems," Samraing Kamsan said. "We can conclude (there was) no widespread fraud or irregularities that could affect the results." He added many of the 11 members of the NEC had agreed.

Two other NEC officials reached Monday said it was probable the committee would reject most if not all of the 304 complaints and leave the opposition to appeal the decisions to the Constitutional Council.

"That is their right if they want to do so," said one, adding he expected Tuesday's meeting to be one of the body's last.

The royalist FUNCINPEC party of deposed co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh and the self-named party of dissident Sam Rainsy, which placed second and third in the polls, have led the complaints.

observation and left boxes liable to tampering during transport.

In addition, FUNCINPEC and Sam Rainsy have vehemently complained about an allegedly improper revision of the formula allocating parliamentary seats.

Monday, Prince Ranariddh and Sam Rainsy wrote to United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, outlining their concerns about the new formula.

"We put our faith in the United Nations to do what is in its power to prevent a procedural manipulation that would distort the will of the Cambodian people and have far-reaching consequences," the letter said.

Using the preliminary results from the election, the original formula would have given the two parties a three-seat edge over the CPP in parliament, a majority with the right to lead a coalition, but the revised formula gives the CPP the majority with a six-seat edge.

Senior NEC officials and a top foreign advisor to the committee have unsuccessfully struggled to convince the opposition that the change was not improper or illegal.

However, they have refused to release minutes of the meeting at which the change was approved.

The opposition has called for a complete NEC investigation, but Samraing Kamsan said Monday the committee did not have any more time to waste on the issue.

"We have no time to talk about that anymore," he said. "If they want to complain about that, they have to go to the Constitutional Council."

Fossett's balloon nears half-way to South Africa

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. balloonist Steve Fossett was soaring over the Atlantic in his "Solo Spirit" balloon early Monday, well on his way to South Africa, officials at his mission control centre reported.

The millionaire's fourth attempt to be the first to circle the globe non-stop in a hot air balloon was "doing very well," said Barb Ray, spokeswoman at Fossett's mission control at Washington University in Saint Louis, Missouri.

As of 0830 GMT, the "Solo Spirit" was over the South Atlantic at 33 degrees 24' south and 29 degrees 37' west, mission control reported. That would put him some 2,000 kilometres southeast of Rio de

Janeiro — almost halfway between South America and Africa. Fossett, who is travelling at a speed of 86 kilometres per hour, is expected to reach South Africa in about a day and a half, Ray said.

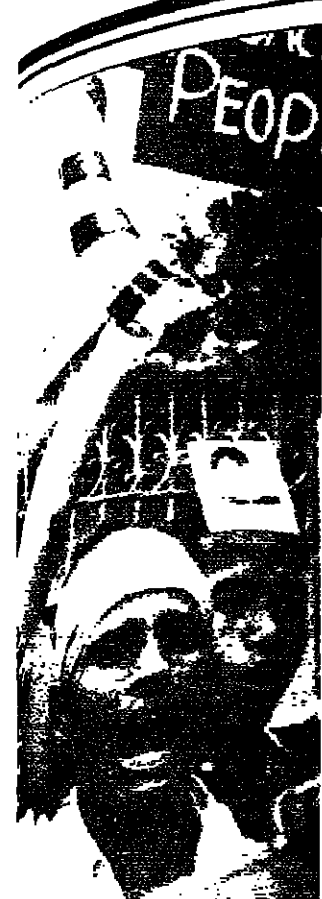
The eccentric balloonist sends regular updates to the centre via electronic mail from an onboard laptop computer, Ray said. Fossett however had been out of touch for several hours, Ray said. That was because he was catching up on some well-deserved sleep.

"He's just awakened from six hours of sleep and is doing very well," Ray said. Because of the extreme weather — the balloon is soaring at an altitude of 7,518 metres above sea level

— and cramped quarters, Fossett "doesn't normally get good rest like that," she said.

Fossett has travelled a total distance of 4,417 kilometres from his starting point in Mendoza, Argentina, mission control reported. During his first night aloft, a fire singed the pilot's eyebrows and caused a slight burn on his left wrist. There was also a minor problem with two of four burners, which he had to turn off.

But Fossett believes he can continue the flight with the two burners. No such problems were reported between Sunday and Monday, Ray said.



Activists shout slogans at a protest in Yangon against the people of Myanmar. The photo shows people in Burmese and English.

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Myanmar activists shout slogans and hold banners outside the Myanmar embassy in Bangkok to protest against the arrest of activists at Yangon airport Sunday. Eighteen foreign activists were detained after handing out leaflets calling on the people of Myanmar to remember a massacre of opposition supporters ten years ago. Thousands of red leaflets in Burmese and English were distributed earlier Sunday at several points around the capital Yangon (Reuters photo)

Thailand urges Myanmar to resolve detention of 18 foreigners

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thailand Monday urged Myanmar quickly to deal with the case of 18 foreigners detained in Yangon for attempting to incite unrest by handing out pro-democracy messages.

Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman Kobsak Chutikul said Bangkok was concerned about the detention Sunday of three Thais, who were among a larger group of foreign activists trying to promote human rights and democracy in the military state.

"We are concerned

because they were given visas to travel to Myanmar, so apparently they are not people who the Myanmar authorities thought had a history of any activities against the government there," Kobsak told a press conference.

Six U.S. nationals, an Australian, two Filipinos, three Malaysians and three Indonesians were also arrested for allegedly breaching laws relating to national security.

"So many nationalities were involved, including many from ASEAN coun-

tries," Kobsak noted, referring to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

"Again we are concerned that this will make a bad image for Myanmar and lead to more international criticism. We urge Myanmar authorities to do whatever they can to solve the situation."

Kobsak appealed to Yangon to respond to international concern about the activists and to be more open and to respond to inquiries.

"We are striving for the

same goals of human rights and democracy that the government in Yangon itself has said is its ultimate goal."

A junta official said Monday the 18 detainees were being questioned but had not yet been charged. He said they were being held in the Yangon Police Guest House and the capital's police headquarters.

Thai and foreign human rights groups, including Amnesty International, Monday condemned the junta and demanded the detainees be released immediately.

10 Japan workers poisoned

TOKYO (R) — Ten people fell ill from apparent poisoning after drinking tea and coffee in northern Japan and investigators have yet to identify the poisonous substance, police said Monday.

A morning break took a tragic turn at a Japanese company in Niigata prefecture, 334 km north of Tokyo, when 10 employees fell ill after drinking tea and coffee at work.

Police said they were investigating the incident, which shattered the calm of Japan's summer holiday period, as a poisoning and possible copycat crime.

"Turning ill right after drinking the tea obviously points to poisoning," said a doctor at the hospital where most of the victims are being treated.

Although preliminary tests of the patients' vomit showed traces of cyanide, further tests showed no signs of cyanide from the patients or the tea and water which the patients drank, a Niigata prefectural police spokesman said.

Police have yet to identify the poisonous substance and some experts have suggested the victims' symptoms appeared to point to pesticide.

A National Police Agency official drew a parallel with a mass poisoning that killed four people and made ill at least 60 others in western Japan last month.

"It could be a copycat crime, imitating what happened in Wakayama," the National Police Agency official said, referring to a July 25 incident in which people at a neighborhood festival were served curry laced with cyanide and arsenic.

Japan's opposition demands snap elections

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's opposition demanded snap elections Monday as Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi battled for parliamentary approval of legislation to save the debt-ridden finance sector.

"The Obuchi administration does not reflect the people's will," Kansei Nakano, deputy head of the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan, charged at the start of the plenary session of the lower house.

"What qualification and power does the administration have without facing the judgement of the people?" he said, demanding the chamber be dissolved for general elections.

Nakano said Obuchi's promotion to the premiership "can never be approved as he served as foreign minister in an administration with numerous policy failures."

Obuchi took office on July 30 after his predecessor, Ryutaro Hashimoto, quit following a devastating defeat for the ruling party in the July 12 upper house elections.

The new premier immediately shrugged off the demands for general elections and repeated his commitment to rescuing the world's second largest economy from recession.

"Our priority is to revive the financial sector reform. Therefore, I don't have dissolution in my mind," Obuchi said.

In Japan, general elections take place once in four

years or anytime after the prime minister dissolves the powerful lower house. The next polls are scheduled for September 2000.

"I have seriously listened to the harsh criticism people have made of my government and I will undertake the utmost effort and do whatever is necessary to revive the economy," the premier told parliament.

"I will face the judgement by making an all out effort to put the economy on a recovery track within one or two years," he said.

Obuchi's reply was greeted by booing from opposition party members.

Concerns over the new premier's commitment to economic reform and the opposition's possible hampering of banking sector rescue legislation sent the yen and stock market falling.

The key Nikkei Stock Average of the Tokyo Stock Exchange dropped 1.3 per cent to end the session at 15,626.42.

The yen declined to 146.64-66 against the dollar here late Monday, close to its eight-year low of 146.75, from 145.53-55 - here Friday.

Russell Jones, chief economist at Lehman Brothers, said the currency's drop was fuelled by uncertainty over the banking sector reform programme and disappointment in Obuchi.

Markets had hoped in vain, he said, that at "some time, at some stage this government may offer a pleasant surprise, some-

thing more than the market was expecting." Investors were haunted by uncertainty over the banking sector legislation and fears about the "government's commitment to taking the tough decisions," Jones said.

Nakano said the new prime minister must "share the responsibility for economic mismanagement of the Hashimoto administration" and "listen to proposals from the opposition side."

Obuchi has called for the opposition's cooperation in passing six crucial bills aimed at cleaning up Japan's debt-ridden finance sector, but the opposition demanded amendments to the legislation.

"I will listen to proposals prepared by the opposition groups and aim to enact laws as soon as possible by seeking their understanding and cooperation," Obuchi said.

He said he wanted to speed up legislation to inject public money for the rescue of the financial industry, plagued by an estimated 87.5 trillion yen (\$621 billion dollars) in bad debt.

After 10 days in office, Obuchi said in his inaugural policy speech last Friday he would "stake his political life" on saving Japan's recession-hit economy.

His promised cuts in income and corporate taxes exceeding six trillion yen and extra government spending to revive the economy of more than 10 trillion yen.

Russia digs in heels over strikes against Belgrade

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia dug its heels in Monday against NATO strikes in Kosovo, rejecting talk of military intervention in the strife-torn Yugoslav province until all diplomatic channels were exhausted.

"The situation right now in Kosovo has not yet met the U.N. criteria for intervention," foreign ministry spokesman Valery Nesterukhin told AFP.

"The current discussions about the use of force encourage extremists to toughen their stance," he said. "We believe that the existing diplomatic tools have not yet been exhausted."

The spokesman's comments came after British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook warned the West was now ready to take military action against Yugoslav forces sent by Belgrade to crush a rebellion by ethnic Albanian separatists.

But while London's stance is backed by Washington, a fellow U.N. Security Council member, French President Jacques Chirac told his U.S. coun-

terpart Bill Clinton Friday that Paris would insist any strikes are approved by the U.N. Security Council.

Russia's envoy to the region, Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolai Afanasyevsky, made Russia's opposition to military action crystal clear Sunday, saying: "No one can explain what the aim of such external interference would be, or what it could contribute other than new complications and an inevitable radicalisation."

That meant that "if NATO intervention were to come before the U.N. Security Council right now, the Russians would veto," said one Western diplomat in post here.

"The official Russian position is based on the assumption that the Kosovo problem is an internal problem of Yugoslavia," said Vitaly Naumkin, head of the Russian Centre of Strategic Research and International Studies.

"It's like Chechnya for Russia," he said, a reference to Moscow's struggle to prevent the secession of its

rebellious Caucasus republic.

Russia's stance is also based on Moscow's hostility to seeing its former foe NATO active in an area it still considers as its sphere of influence, said Yevgeny Kostikov, of Moscow's Institute of Political Studies.

"Accepting an accord with the United States for an intervention in Kosovo would be to accept giving up its ambitions in Eastern Europe. That is out of the question," he said.

Moscow, a traditional ally of its fellow Orthodox Christians the Serbs, has been pursuing a twin-track approach to the conflict: respect for Yugoslavia's territorial integrity and broad autonomy for the ethnic Albanian majority province.

Vitaly Naumkin said the type of intervention called for would determine Moscow's final position.

"It's one thing when this kind of intervention is going to protect borders from refugees," he said, but if "it's intervention on the

basis of some kind of decision about going into Yugoslavia, I think it will still be regarded by Russia as interference in (its) internal affairs."

However, Russia may toe the Western line if push comes to shove, he said, recalling how Russia first opposed the arms embargo against Belgrade in March and eventually backed it.

"Russia is not willing ... to risk its relations with the West for the sake of the Serbs or Milosevic's policies," Naumkin said.

One scenario evoked by observers here involved a repeat of previous crises, where intense Western pressure, accompanied by threats of tough action, is eased by an eleventh-hour compromise brokered by Russia.

Diplomats here were sceptical that Moscow could save Belgrade this time. "So far the Russians have not proven able to secure any change of course on Kosovo, and Milosevic, has shown a talent for making promises which are forgotten moments later."

Kohl rules out coalition with opposition after election

BONN, Germany (AP) — Back from vacation "with a cheerful heart," Chancellor Helmut Kohl Monday ruled out joining the opposition Social Democrats in a coalition government after fall elections, saying such speculation was only meant to confuse voters.

"There won't be a grand coalition with us," Kohl said before the steering committee of his Christian Democratic Union held its first meeting after the summer break.

Social Democratic chancellor candidate Gerhard Schröder, who has been leading Kohl in opinion polls, said last week that if coalition talks with the ecology-minded Greens didn't pan out, he would not hesitate to turn to the Christian Democrats.

Such a pairing of Germany's two main parties hasn't been tried in Bonn since the 1960s, although it is not uncommon at the

state level.

But Kohl insisted the differences between his conservative party and the traditionally leftist Social Democrats were too great for a coalition to work.

Attempts by Schröder to steer his party closer to a "new centre" with business-friendly policies and tough talk on law and order "are not believable," Kohl said.

Kohl said he was optimistic about his chances for winning a record fifth term

on Sept. 27 and was going "into this decisive battle with a cheerful heart."

Asked whether he intended to serve the entire four year term, he said, "right now I first am going to win the election."

A Social Democratic-Greens coalition has been leading in opinion polls for months, but recent surveys show the government parties gaining ground to make the race almost neck-and-neck.

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Rights groups call for release of China activist

BEIJING (R) — Chinese and Western human rights activists Monday called for the release of a student leader in 1989 pro-democracy demonstrations arrested for trying to register an opposition party.

A group of 90 Chinese dissidents signed an open letter demanding that authorities release Wang Youcai and allow him access to a lawyer while in detention, the U.S.-based group Human Rights in China said in a statement.

Wang, 32, detained since July 10, was one of 13 dissidents rounded up in the eastern city of Hangzhou for trying to register the Chinese Democratic Party on June 25, the first day of U.S. President Bill Clinton's nine-day state visit to China. All except Wang have been released.

The letter stressed that the registration of a politi-

cal party was "peaceful, non-violent, in compliance with China's constitution and a basic human right stipulated by the United Nations Charter on Human Rights."

Police have refused to shed light on Wang's case. The Washington-based Free China Movement said in a statement it was "greatly offended by the Chinese Communist Party's recent decision to indict Mr. Wang Youcai."

Hangzhou police informed Wang's wife, Hu Jiangxia, by telephone Saturday that the pro-democracy campaigner was formally arrested on charges of incitement to overthrow the government, the wife has said.

If charged and convicted, Wang could be sentenced to life in prison, according to Chinese laws.

The Free China

Movement said Wang's treatment amounted to political persecution and proved Beijing's promise to Clinton to improve human rights and deepen reforms were "a complete lie."

During his visit, Clinton argued for human rights and greater freedom in China, raising hopes that the world's most populous nation could become more open.

After trying and failing to register the party, the Hangzhou dissidents had dropped their plan before Clinton left China, saying the challenge to Communist Party supremacy was too risky.

Washington has urged Beijing to release the Hangzhou dissidents, but China has objected to U.S. concerns as interference in its internal affairs, saying most of the dissidents were criminals.

Wang was paroled in

1991 after serving two years in prison for his role in student-led pro-democracy demonstrations around Beijing's Tiananmen Square which were brutally crushed by the army on June 4, 1989, with severe loss of life.

Wang, a physics graduate student at prestigious Peking University in 1989, had been sentenced to three years in prison. He was on the government's list of 21 most wanted student leaders.

Fellow dissidents had applied to police to march through Hangzhou's streets on Aug. 12 to call for Wang's immediate release. Police were expected to reject their application.

A group of 23 dissidents have written an open letter to President Jiang saying they were willing to accompany Wang and go to jail if he were convicted.

Indian PM pledges to breathe life back into nuclear power industry

BOMBAY, India (AFP) — Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee vowed Monday to resuscitate India's stalled nuclear power programme, but called on scientists to help keep power plant costs down.

"The main challenge today in India with regards nuclear science lies in the energy sector," Vajpayee told scientists at the Baba Atomic Research Centre in Bombay.

"We need to not only vastly increase the generation of power, but must also lower the cost

of production," he said.

India has seven nuclear power stations, most using pressurised heavy water reactors or fast breeder reactors that produce a mere 2.5 per cent of the country's energy needs.

"The cost of generating one additional unit of nuclear power is very low, but the overall cost of nuclear power plants must fall," Vajpayee said.

"That is a challenge before all of you."

The prime minister admitted the difficulties facing the country's nuclear power sector

stemmed mainly from chronic underfunding rather than technological shortfalls.

"I am aware of this problem and I promise you that the long-stalled nuclear power programme will be restarted," he said.

India's major cities suffer daily power cuts as demand far exceeds supply.

In June, Russia signed an agreement to build two light water nuclear reactors in southern India. New Delhi said the nuclear power project would be covered by

International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards.

Nuclear power co-operation between India and France, which relies on nuclear energy to meet three-quarters of its needs, was also discussed when President Jacques Chirac visited the country in January.

Critics have slammed India's nuclear power programme for being shrouded in secrecy, with a lack of public scrutiny and accountability resulting in wrongly low safety standards.

France wilts as temperatures, pollution soar

PARIS (R) — France wilted Monday as temperatures and pollution levels soared for the third straight day and forecasters predicted more of the same Tuesday.

In Paris, tourists and residents alike flocked to the city's many fountains so they could dangle their feet in the cool water.

The more courageous among them stripped off some of their clothing and waded right in.

After one of the wettest summers on record, an unexpected heat wave pushed temperatures towards 40 Celsius in central France and to 36 Celsius in the capital, the summer's hottest temper-

atures.

There was little wind, driving up pollution in the major cities.

Police urged motorists to leave their cars at home and take public transport. Young children, the elderly and individuals with respiratory problems were warned to take precau-

tions as air pollution remained at health-threatening levels for a third day.

A police statement said that motorists who insisted on using their cars should travel at 20 kph below the official speed limit to minimise harmful emissions.

The secret life of the superbugs

Many nasty diseases of body and mind are showing a previously unsuspected link with bacterial infection

By Jerome Burne

BACTERIA SEEM to have a limitless capacity to surprise us. They are found living off boiling sulphur on the ocean bed and feeding off rocks deep within the Earth's crust. Once we thought we could control them with antibiotics; then they fought back by developing resistance. Now it seems that they have been making us ill all the time in ways we were not even aware of. New findings suggest that conditions as different as kidney stones, obsessive compulsive disorder, Tourette's syndrome, heart disease and arthritis may all be the result of hitherto unrecognised bacterial infections.

Earlier this month a Finnish researcher — Olavi Kajander of Kupio University — caused a stir when he suggested that kidney stones could be caused by a type of tiny bacteria, found in the blood of humans and cows, which build a hard mineral shell round themselves for protection. The coats of these nanobacteria, so-called because they are only 0.1 micrometres long, are made out of a similar sort of material to that found in kidney stones. This set Kajander wondering whether the two were connected. He examined 30 kidney stones and found that they all contained the bacteria. "Not proof," he admits, "but it's strong evidence." Dr. Dennis Carson of the University of California, San Diego, has suggested that nanobacteria may also be implicated in other disorders, such as heart disease, some tumours, and dementia caused by excess calcium deposits in the brain.

In fact, bacteria have been turning up as the unsuspected cause of chronic infections ever since 1982, when two young Australian physicians, Barry Marshall and Robin Warren, isolated bacteria from patients with ulcers or gastritis (stomach inflammation). They made the radical proposal that a spiral-shaped bacterium, later named *Helicobacter pylori*, causes gastritis and possibly ulcers. At the time no one took them seriously; everyone "knew" that ulcers were caused by stress.

It was a neat coincidence that the *pylori*-ulcer link was made exactly 100 years after Heinrich Koch discovered the link between bacteria and tuberculosis, dismissed at the time because everyone believed an excess of emotions caused tuberculosis. In fact, it was not until February 1994 that the *pylori*-ulcer connection was officially recognised by the medical profession.



Bacteria have been implicated in conditions as varied as kidney stones, obsessive compulsive disorder, Tourette's syndrome and heart disease (SPL)

Acceptance was so slow partly because ulcers fail to conform with our notion of an infectious disease. Infections, with some exceptions such as leprosy and tuberculosis, are acute. You have a swelling, inflammation, maybe pain, maybe a fever, you are ill for days or a few weeks at the most, and then you either die or recover. But it now seems that such chronic conditions as arthritis, hardening of the arteries and even cancer may be linked with bacteria.

Pylori, for instance, seems associated with stomach cancer — having *pylori* increases the risk about six-fold — but there must be other factors, since only 1 per cent of people with *pylori* get stomach cancer. About 50 per cent of patients with lymphoma, an uncommon form of

stomach cancer, do seem to be cured when *pylori* is wiped out with antibiotics.

Findings like these prompted the International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases, held in Atlanta by America's Centres for Disease Control, to devote a session to chronic diseases and bacteria earlier this year. One of the new villains of the occasion was *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, well known for causing pneumonia, which is now accused of being involved in some cases of arthritis and asthma, and, more seriously, heart disease.

In the last few years this bug, once thought to live only in the nose and throat, has been found taking up residence in the fatty "plaques" that accumulate on the insides of blood

vessel walls when the arteries fur up. Research by Dr. Sandeep Gupta, of St. George's hospital in London, found that patients with evidence of pneumoniae infection were as much as four times more likely to suffer further heart problems over an 18-month period — a difference that vanished after the patients were given a three-day course of antibiotics.

The experts are still cautious about declaring that pneumoniae is helping to build the plaques, rather than just living in them, but the case for the prosecution is getting stronger. A recent experiment by Dr. Robert Molestina, at the University of Louisville in Kentucky, has shown that pneumoniae causes cells from the artery wall to produce molecules

called chemokines. These are chemical cries for help, and attract the defence team of the immune system, which produce inflammation — the way the body normally deals with infection. Researchers are now trying to clarify why the inflammation does not clear up, as it does with most infections.

In fact, inflammation is at the bottom of this new connection between bacteria and chronic diseases. The origins of a number of conditions that involve long-term inflammation, such as arthritis, Crohn's disease (in the gut) and ulcers have always been mysterious, but now bacteria that cause food poisoning, such as salmonella and campylobacter, are turning out to be likely culprits, at least in some cases.

When it is the brain that gets inflamed, behaviour can be affected, which accounts for the even more surprising link between bacteria and psychiatric disorders such as autism and anorexia. The villain of this connection is streptococcus, another bacteria that normally gives you a sore throat. But in rare cases children produce antibodies against the infection, which then destroy cells in an area of the brain known as the caudate nucleus of the basal ganglia. From PET scans we know that this is a region of the brain that is hyperactive in people with obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD). The basal ganglia are involved in the control of movement and emotion.

Dr. Susan Swedo, a neuroscientist at the American National Institute of Mental Health, has discovered that a significant proportion of OCD patients suffered from a severe "strep" infection in childhood. She has christened this link PANDAS — paediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcus — and the panda has now become the mascot of the American OCD support groups.

Now this oddly specific link between streptococcus and the caudate nucleus has been suggested as a possible cause for Tourette's syndrome, a condition that gives sufferers an overwhelming compulsion to repeat certain actions or phrases, often obscene ones. Earlier this month Dr. Harvey Singer, of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland, wrote an article in the British Journal of Medicine pointing out that Tourette's can first appear following strep infection, and it can get much worse if you already have it. She reported a study that found streptococcus antibodies in this area of the brain in a group of children with Tourette's, compared to none in the brains of a normal group.

Singer is following in the steps of other American researchers who have also found evidence of these antibodies in the blood of patients with autism and with anorexia, both conditions involving strong elements of compulsion and obsession. No one is suggesting this is the only cause. But Dr. Mae Sokal, of the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, Kansas, has reported success in treating "elevated antibody anorexia" as they are known, with a course of antibiotics has led to dramatic improvement.

It seems that bacteria still have plenty of surprises in store for us.

— The Independent

Jordan celebrates 46 years since King's accession to the Throne

(Continued from page 1)

peace based on the exchange of land for peace and on the principles of U.N. Security Council resolutions, Petra said.

Referring to Jordan's support for the Palestinians, Petra said that Jordan has never ceased to offer support for the Palestinian people in their ongoing struggle for freedom and has been continually providing assistance to alleviate the Palestinian people's suffering under occupation.

Petra said that Jordan has followed moderate policies at the pan-Arab

and international levels urging Arab countries to transcend their differences and work in concert to protect the nation's higher interest.

In pursuit of efforts to attain the objectives of the Great Arab Revolt, King Hussein has made Jordan a haven for all Arabs seeking democracy, security and pan-Arab unity, said Petra.

Today, the Monarch describes the struggle with cancer, his second encounter with the disease which cost him a kidney in 1992, as his "new battle."

But the problem of securing peace in the

region which has troubled him since his enthronement on August 11, 1952 is still far from over.

In celebrating this anniversary, Petra added, the Jordanian people express allegiance to the Hashemite Throne and assert their loyalty to a king, who over the past four decades, managed to make Jordan a modern state aspiring for further progress and prosperity.

On this occasion, King Hussein received cables from Arab and world leaders congratulating him on this dear occasion. He received cables from Sultan Qaboos of

Oman, Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, The United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, Pakistani President Mohammad Rafiq Tarara, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, Bahraini Crown Prince Hamad Ben Issa Al Khalifeh and Deputy President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Maktoum Ben Rashed Al Maktoum and other UAE officials.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali also sent a cable to King Hussein congratulating him on this occasion.

Ensour defends House endorsement of draft Press and Publications Law

(Continued from page 1)

ensure payment of fines for violations of the law.

During the NGC's last session, deputies said the government had tried to reintroduce the issue of capital requirements, which may regard as an "administrative tool" that would allow the government to close aggravating newspapers. The plenary agreed to omit the bank guarantee but again boosted the capital for weekly newspapers to JD100,000.

Ensour said yesterday that the government was not pleased by the plenary's decision on the

capital, nor by its decision to omit altogether the bank guarantee.

"We set the capital at that level because we believe that a good newspaper needs good financial backing to ensure strong management and proper facilities," the minister said. Journalists yesterday said they were reserving their criticism of the legislation until they see its final form.

However, they criticised the Lower House for not showing a greater interest in Sunday's final debate.

"We are not satisfied with the way the law was

passed," said Nabil Sherif, chief editor of Al Dustour newspaper. "We have no idea of the opinion of nearly half of the House, and are not comfortable with the 'revolving' that went on during the session."

Thirty-eight Lower House deputies voted in favour of the law out of 48 present, a scant majority of the 80-member Parliament. And after weeks of deliberation in the Lower House's National Guidance Committee, the plenary rendered its final reading of the 60-article draft in a mere three sessions.

Fourteen deputies, mostly opposition, stormed out of the final session after a vote on a controversial article — which now prohibits the publication of any news that may "bear a personal insult to the heads of Arab, Islamic or friendly countries or to the heads of diplomatic missions or their members" — was put to vote twice after one deputy called for a revote, a move not permissible according to House by-laws unless such a motion is supported by ten other deputies.

Press savours 'last dance' before final endorsement of law

(Continued from page 1)

introduced a new press and publications draft law to Parliament, presumably with the intention of routing any voices critical of its unpopular policies.

But many believe that the oppressive atmosphere, presided by the government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, rather than stifling the press, has given it impetus to flourish as never before, sweeping Parliament and other civic institutions along with it.

This summer, the press, along with several former information ministers and other civic leaders, launched a significant campaign at the Lower House of Parliament, pressuring deputies for major amendments to the law. The National Guidance Committee, which made the second reading of the draft, consequently attempted a substantial retreat from the government's proposal. While the content of the draft approved by the Lower House Sunday is far from ideal, says one political observer, most deputies "acted in the best of faith."

"The point from which they started was an extremely difficult one," says one former

chief editor who requested anonymity.

While resisting government forays into media affairs, the press also clashed a number of times with the government over other issues. In two encounters, it won.

Earlier this year, when the government tried to gain control of provident funds, the press fired a barrage of criticisms from professional associations, labour unions and banks. The condemnation was so severe that Parliament advised the government not to try to introduce such a law.

Most recently, the press's outcry over the water scandal and consistent pressure on deputies resulted in a parliamentary investigation of the matter and public demands for the resignation of the government. It also drew the attention of several civic institutions that lobbied parliament. The media's persistence culminated in the resignation of the Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin on Sunday.

"We have for once, seen a whole [democratic] process activated, and it is a process activated by the press," said former minister of information Ibrahim Izzedine. "I think that whoever is writing this press law, or whoever voted in

favour of it in Parliament, has forgotten about all these elements who have made their presence felt."

Lessons from this summer's experience are many, says one political observer.

"This experience will hopefully show the opposition that, when it chose to boycott political life, it made the wrong decision," he said. "And that political engagement is much more effective — but it requires that people activate their legal rights."

Nine opposition parties, including the Islamic Action Front, declared a boycott of last November's parliamentary elections in protest of the government's amendments to the press and elections laws, which they believed were constructed to limit their presence in Parliament. They were joined by the country's 13 professional associations and roughly 100 independent political personalities who said that "the political game is no longer useful."

"The government too, should understand from all this that it cannot continue to disregard the public's feelings or will," the analyst said. "They believed that King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan gave them carte blanche authority and ignored

even their messages."

Journalists now fear that Parliament, upon endorsing the draft, also undermined its own authority by stripping the press of any effective power.

"The press has supported Parliament [on all these issues], we bolstered their authority," said one retired editor. "In all these scandals, journalists have helped the Parliament exercise its authority to take action against public officials."

But, says one senior editor, the press's newfound confrontational style is only present as long as new, highly restrictive legislation looms. "I think we feel that this government is in its final days, and we feel empowered by criticism of the government at the highest levels," said Al Dustour Chief Editor Nabil Sherif. "We also know that this is the 'last dance' — that with a new press law, we won't be able to do it again."

"We are very proud that [during the water crisis] we served our nation, but we are disappointed that while we were fighting for the public interest, we were attacked by this law. For the moment, we have to continue doing our job while savouring every last minute."

Hourani takes over water portfolio

(Continued from page 1)

Agriculture investigating the crisis.

However, the minister added that if the government had referred the issue to the judiciary, the public prosecutor would have requested officials and the media not to publish information on the case.

"This would have prevented citizens from receiving information, which is not the

objective," he said. "The committee has the authority to refer people it finds responsible to court," he added. "Anyone who has failed to deal with the water problem because of negligence will be punished."

Meanwhile, according to the Jordan News Agency (Petra), the Water Authority announced on Monday that the ZWP restarted pumping supplies to Amman after technicians managed to deal

with the large amounts of algae and organic substance detected in the water.

During the briefing, Ensour confirmed that the government will allow importing bottled water in order to meet market demand.

Local water bottlers had complained that such a decision would be devastating to their industry. They argued that even though these companies are unable to meet market demand now, once

the crisis is over, demand will become lower than their production capacity.

"The peak season is almost at an end. A JD 15 million industry is about to be destroyed for three weeks' worth of demand," Ramzi Haditha, general manager of Ghadeer Water Bottling told the Jordan Times on Sunday. "Officials or investors should not base their decisions on the circumstances of emergency situations."

U.S. and Jordan sign \$54.3 million grant agreements

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan and the U.S. Monday signed two grant agreements under which the Kingdom will receive \$54.3 million in grant as part of Washington's annual assistance to the country.

The first agreement authorizes a \$50 million grant from the U.S. to repay part of the Kingdom's foreign debt burden, while the remaining \$4.3 million will be used to support job-creating projects.

A U.S. embassy statement indicated that among the projects that the second grant will finance are a micro finance programme, a business association support programme and a policy reform implementing programme.

"The new funds will support programmes that will provide both public and private institutions with the technical assistance and training needs to ensure Jordan can participate efficiently within the global economy," the one-page embassy statement said.

These projects are aimed at enabling the small and medium size enterprises to improve their marketing and management capabilities, as well as facilitating their access to new technologies.

The agreements bring total U.S. government bilateral contribution to projects aimed

TRC approves credit card charges on pay phones

By Ahmed Naser
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Credit cards will soon be good for making pay-phones calls, the TRC announced Monday.

Trans Jordan for Communication Services, Alo, and other public pay phone service providers received approval to offer credit card charging on pay phones, according to a Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (TRC) statement.

"Anyone who has a credit card issued by a company that has an agreement with us [Alo] can insert his or her credit card into our phones and make calls," said Fadi Khoury, Alo marketing and business development manager.

Agreements between Alo

and credit card providers will be finalised "very soon," added Khoury.

Similar to pay phone card users, credit card holders will be able to make local, national, international and cellular calls.

Banks and credit card companies contacted by the Jordan Times reserved comment.

In the initial phase, card holders will be able to call on Alo phones located in tourist areas, shopping zones, hotels and in most major towns across the Kingdom, according to Khoury.

Alo cannot offer the service on all of its phones because all are not equipped to support credit card charging, said Khoury, adding that the firm was working towards upgrading hard-

ware on all its phones.

Alo's competitor, Jordan Pay Phone Services Company (JPP), however has all of its phones equipped to handle the new service, said Karim Abu Khadra, account director at United Media Services (UMS), which handles JPP's advertising and marketing.

But, to date, Alo has been more successful than its competitor, as pay phone cards for its 1,900 pay phones across Jordan are available.

JPP's cards have not been available in the market for the past few weeks.

Abu Khadra declined to comment on why the cards are not available and whether or not JPP was also in negotiations with credit card providers.

Meanwhile, the TRC board meeting also approved rates of another value added service, caller line identification (CLI), known as "caller I.D.," to be offered by the Jordan Telecommunication Company.

Until recently, caller I.D. had only been available to subscribers of Jordan Mobile Telephone Services, Fastlink, at a rate of JD10 per month.

Fastlink recently started offering an antidote service known as caller line identification restriction (CLIR) at twice the price of CLI.

CLIR withholds numbers from "caller I.D." enabled phones, so as not to harm its caller I.D. market share.

JTC's service, though costing a tenth of Fastlink's, still requires an initial pay-

ment of JD6 for setup and the purchase of a special piggy-back peripheral that is hooked into a regular phone.

This machine is still not available on the market, and according to telecom officials and market sources, 20 companies have submitted product samples that are awaiting TRC approval, as provided for by the 1995 Telecommunication Law.

Technicians told the Jordan Times that the TRC is testing these products to ensure that none have the capability to provide caller I.D. without having the service installed by JTC.

The JTC caller I.D. rates come a month after the company's director general, Mamoun Balqar, announced the introduction of CLI and seven other value added ser-

vices, the tariffs of which are awaiting TRC approval.

The state-owned telecom provider's new value added service will be available to its 413,000 home and business phone-line owners on the JTC's following Amman exchanges: Abdali, Abdoun, Sweileh, Tla' Ali, Dabouq, Um Al Amad, Abu Alanda, Amman Airport, Ashrafieh, Baqaa, Fuheis, Naour, Al Nasr, Juweideh, Nazal, Sahab and Muwaqar, among others.

Other governorates that will also witness the introduction of the service are: Irbid, Mafraq, Ajloun, Jerash, Balqa, Madaba, Zarqa, Aqaba and Ma'an.

TRC approves lower rates on JTC international circuit

By Ahmed Naser
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government Sunday approved lower rates and a third communication licence for the state's telecom provider, according to a TRC statement.

During its board meeting Sunday, the Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (TRC) approved the Jordan Telecommunication Company's (JTC's) international circuits prices, the statement released Monday said.

According to a telecom source, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have been waiting for these lower charges since March.

The telecom source, requesting anonymity, told the Jordan Times that the reason for the delay in issuing these new rates, which were proposed in April by the JTC, was that the drafted rates had been structured in a way that increased rates on high speed circuits.

The rates approved Sunday, however, registered decreases of around 27 per cent on circuits of all speeds to Arab countries and an average of 53 per cent to foreign countries, such as the United States, the source said.

The TRC approval of the JTC's data-communication licence came after more than 20 drafts of the licence and three changes of telecommunication min-

isters, from Jamal Saraireh to Bassam Saket to Sami Gammo, the current minister.

With the approval of JTC's new licence, Jordan awaits the advent of an eighth data-communications provider.

But unlike the seven other data-communications providers in the country — Global One, National Equipment and Technical Services (NETS), Advanced Business Networking (ABN), Index, FirstNet, JoinNet and Destinations — JTC was not required to pay a JD25,000 licence acquisition fee.

And according to these seven providers' licences, the companies must pay the TRC a 15 per cent royalty on their revenue, after infra-structural equipment costs are determined and exempted.

Last week, the government granted JTC a mobile-phone provision licence, which an official said was aimed at polishing the JTC's current value, along with the state-owned telecom provider's procurement of international capacity through FLAG, a 28,000-kilometre fibre-optic cable running from London to Tokyo.

These developments follow the statements last week by JTC's newly appointed chairman, Ali Shukri, who said there was no need to sell 40 per cent of the company's equity to a foreign strategic partner.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDANIYAH									
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179									
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 10/08/1998									
LAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	LAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / S	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	PRICE CHANGE
358.500	170.000	ARAB BANK	18.1	.90	23	610	135210	221.50	222.00 +.50
2.100	1.620	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	13.4	4.24	8	10297	16989	1.65	1.65 -
3.200	1.130	BANK OF JORDAN	7	0.00	5	6050	6993	1.16	1.16 -
1.300	.870	MED. EAST TRV. BK.	63.1	0.00	4	1300	1240	.96	.96 -
2.680	1.550	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	19.5	6.65	3	900	1404	1.56	1.56 -
6.510	2.610	JOR. HOUSING BK.	19.5	3.25	38	21508	66574	3.08	3.08 +.03
3.480	1.790	JOR. KOWATY BANK	9	0.00	6	645	1186	1.86	1.83 +.03
.870	.580	JOR. GULF BANK	5	0.00	9	13125	7966	.59	.62 +.03
4.000	1.690	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.7	0.00	7	2859	4964	1.72	1.72 +.03
3.900	1.350	JOR. TRV. & INV. BANK	23.5	3.21	1	1500	495	1.83	1.83 -
1.060	.900	RETT. AL-MAL (NETS)	3.9	0.00	1	100	80	.81	.80 +.01
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 293.31	KGHS: +0.31	105	57694	242045		
4.000	1.450	JERUSALEM INSUR.	9.5	5.71	1	5000	7000	1.45	1.40 +.05
2.850	1.640	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	7.5	9.26	5	4000	10775	2.67	2.70 +.03
2.630	1.200	JORDANIAN INSUR.	9	0.00	2	225	320	1.47	1.42 +.05
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 128.54	KGHS: -0.37	8	9225	18094		
2.240	1.470	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	10.0	5.36	13	3709	5676	1.53	1.54 +.01
4.030	1.420	IRBID ELECTRICITY	15.1	4.08	1	250	613	2.51	2.45 +.06
7.500	2.150	VEHIC. OWNERS FID.	8.8	5.08	1	200	430	2.15	2.15 -
9.500	2.100	JOR. FIDELITY INSUR.	8.8	6.96	2	1650	9488	5.75	5.75 -
1.480	1.060	MED. EAST HOTELS	9	0.00	1	500	550	1.10	1.10 -
4.600	1.580	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	9.8	2.03	1	650	1281	1.96	1.97 +.01
1.070	.890	SANKA EDUCATION	21.4	0.00	2	800	465	.93	.93 -
1.210	.750	OUTPOST CO.	5.4	8.24	14	3080	3715	1.24	1.23 +.01
.810	.560	UNION LAND DEV.	9	0.00	1	50	27	.56	.54 +.02
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 111.08	KGHS: +0.14	36	10559	22244		
4.000	1.840	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	11.5	5.67	14	20900	40454	1.91	1.94 +.03
4.110	1.690	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	18.0	0.00	5	18504	11456	1.69	1.70 +.01
6.500	4.750	ARAB POTASH CO.	23.9	4.12	2	150	728	4.75	4.85 +.10
11.250	9.250	JOR. PETROLEUM REFINERY	10.4	8.31	10	2057	22009	10.70	10.70 -
5.950	4.450	JORDAN SUGAR	7.6	8.11	5	2680	12334	4.60	4.70 +.10
1.570	1.000	WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	12.1	6.55	1	2000	2180	1.07	1.09 +.02
1.820	1.060	INDUSTRIAL COMM. GR.	63.8	0.00	1	100	108	1.06	1.08 +.02
7.350	5.900	JOR. WOODEN MILLS	8.0	3.28	1	200	1220	6.15	6.10 +.05
5.740	2.400	ARAB PAPER. IND.	7.3	2.82	45	20310	53467	2.63	2.66 +.03
2.940	2.450	JORDAN DAIRY	6.1	10.10	3	170	467	2.75	2.75 -
6.350	4.700	DAN ALANDIA DV. INV.	6.6	5.43	5	1228	6675	5.42	5.44 +.02
4.400	2.400	BATTELION TRNS.	8.0	0.00	1	1000	410	.42	.41 +.01
2.330	.790	KATL. CARLS WIRE. NYAC	36.0	0.00	3	2950	2390	.82	.81 +.01
1.470	1.150	ARAB FRANCH. CHEN.	14.0	4.72	6	1700	2159	1.27	1.27 -
7.740	.390	KAMAZER INVEST.	9	0.00	28	19690	9612	.48	.50 +.02
1.300	.690	UNIV. MED. TRNS.	11.0	8.70	14	10000	6900	.69	.69 -
1.600	1.200	KATL. CHELORINE	8.7	8.06	5	7300	8989	1.22	1.24 +.02
1.080	.700	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	9.9	14.29	6	3850	2695	.70	.70 -
1.610	1.150	KL - RAY RAY WEAR	40.5	0.00	1	800	920	1.15	1.15 -
1.310	.980	INTL. TORISCO	6.8	6.07	3	250	243	.98	.97 +.01
.890	.660	JORDAN STEEL	9.5	8.24	3	10000	8503	.86	.85 +.01
.670	.550	MED. EAST COMPLEX	10.3	0.00	4	5400	3038	.57	.57 -
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 87.57	KGHS: +1.23	166	131479	217187		
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 180.59	KGHS: +0.51	315	208957	499569		
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 10/08/1998									
1.000	1.000	JOR. INTL. INSURANCE CO	8	0.00	1	3500	3500	1.00	1.00 -
1.000	1.000	ARAB CEMENT TRD. CO.	8	0.00	1	10000	10000	1.00	1.00 -
.470	.270	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	8	0.00	3	14100	6905	.47	.45 +.02
.800	.510	UNION INV.	9	0.00	7	24944	12721	.51	.51 -
.600	.280	ARAB FID. INVEST.	9	0.00	10	15550	4356	.29	.29 -
1.000	.830	ARAB JOR. INVEST. CO.	14.0	8.11	1	2100	2057	.83	.82 +.01
.600	.330	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	3	2000	660	.34	.33 +.01
.430	.240	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	27.6	0.00	9	19500	4698	.25	.24 +.01
.450	.230	KATL. TEXTILE	9	0.00	2	6000	1360	.23	.23 +.01
.580	.360	KATL. MULE. KNG. RAYCO	9	0.00	4	5240	1893	.37	.36 +.01
.690	.580	MIDWEST FRANCH. 901	9	0.00	1	3250	1723	.63	.63 -
.730	.570	RAST FRANCH.	8	0.00	1	100	59	.58	.59 +.01
.350	.220	TRNS. MED.	9	0.00	14	19650	4325	.22	.22 -
.340	.210	I. TEXTILE MANUF.	9	0.00	1	100	25	.26	.25 +.01
.500	.320	PEARL GAM. P. CONV.	9	0.00	1	50	19	.37	.38 +.01
.510	.330	OPTICALS RESEARCH CO.	9	0.00	5	8150	3212	.34	.36 +.02
.760	.580	KATL. ALUMINUM	31.7	0.00	28	21900	14055	.58	.54 +.01
1.000	.690	AL-KHABAL PRINTING CO	10.7	10.82	1	100	70	.69	.70 +.01
GRAND TOTAL			93	244634	160649				

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Pluto is in Sagittarius, which, for you, means there could be surprises associated with travel. You're lucky in that regard, and you're even luckier if this deals with a country or person from another country you've known for a long time. Going back will be more successful than going forward.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) You might be feeling pressure, because something's leaning on you. It's your subconscious, your dreams. It might even be somebody you know demanding you do what they want without stalling. Things like that tend to make you even more resistant, but this time you may as well comply. You'll save yourself a lot of trouble.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You've had an interesting couple of days and now you'll get time to relax. Meet with friends and let them know what's been going on lately. Review what you've done recently and decide what worked and what didn't work. Then, put in the correction, because the action is going to pick up again soon.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) An authority figure is watching your every move. This might be irritating, but keep your temper under control. Even though this person is making outrageous demands, it's not a good time to flare up. Instead, see if you can meet the challenge. That will help you gain respect, admiration and possibly an increase in your allowance.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) The moon is in Aries, which always encourages you to try something new. It's a bold, outgoing sign, and a good one for you to hang around with. Aries will always try to talk you into doing something outrageous. You may not think of yourself as cautious, but next to your Aries friend you are for sure.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You don't have to do everything by yourself. Somebody would like to help you, and you could accept that offer. It won't be expensive; the other person wants to repay an old favour. You've knocked yourself out to serve others in the past. Now, let somebody serve you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Looks like your mate and your friends have lots of good ideas. They're figuring out everything down to the tiniest detail. All you have to do is go along for the ride. Sometimes you want to take a more active part in the planning, but this time it's not necessary. Might as well relax and enjoy it.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) The work load is intense today. You better know how to do the job by now. If not, mimic the person who's getting the highest pay. You could be that person soon. Figure out what needs to be done before anybody asks, and produce more results than anybody anticipated. There's a lot to be gained by putting in the effort.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Conditions in effect are excellent for romance and travel. They're not very good for paying attention to the job or for taking care of practical matters. Consequently, you should schedule that sort of thing for later in the week. Right now, try to finagle a way to get outdoors.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You may get something you want for your home for free if you're willing to take a circuitous route. Start by asking a person who has connections. You're used to working hard for what you get, but this is more likely a trade. Let people know what you want and what you have to offer in return.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You've always been smart, but today you're even smarter. A partner may want to think things over a little longer, but you're ready to take action. You've figured out what needs to be done, and now you want to do it. Impetuous activities can sometimes lead to accidents, but this time that's not likely. Be bold.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) There's lots of work today. The good news is that it means more money coming in, maybe a lot more. The work you're going now is making a favourable impression on the powers that be. You think you're doing this by yourself, but that's not necessarily true. Other people are watching, and they like what they see.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

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World Basketball Championship

Yugoslavia is best of the rest; Americans get bronze

ATHENS (AP) — Who was prouder?

Was it Yugoslavian coach Zeljko Obradovic? His team beat Russia 64-62 for the gold medal Sunday in the World Basketball Championship and did it — representing a country still crippled by war — without missing stars including the NBA's Vlade Divac.

Or was it American coach Rudy Tomjanovich? The much-criticized Americans — a composite of minor-league talent assembled in the last month when the NBA stars were locked out — won bronze thrashing Greece 84-61.

The gold was a record fourth at the worlds for Yugoslavia.

They might not have beaten an American Dream Team. However, a full-strength Yugoslavia just might have.

"After the embargo we played in four straight finals and won three times. It's incredible. We have a lot of reason to be very proud," Obradovic said.

"We had many problems, and players who weren't here. But we got this again," he added, cradling the gold medal hanging around his neck.

Center Zeljko Rebraca, playing where Divac would have, led with 16 points and 11 rebounds. Dejan Bodiroga, the (2.06-metre) 6-9 guard/forward, chipped in with 11 points and 5 rebounds and was named MVP.

Djordjevic, playing with a leg injury, added seven and took over at the end with Rebraca.

Yugoslavia showed again it plays the best basketball outside of the United States. Following the lifting of war sanctions, Yugoslavia has won the '95 and '97 European titles, and was second in the '96 Olympics to Dream Team III.

Not only was Divac missing, so was injured former NBA star Predrag Danilovic and retired center Zoran Savic. Also absent were two Yugoslavs with Greek passports who weren't allowed to play: forward Predrag Stojakovic, who will play next season with the Sacramento Kings, and (2.12-metre) 6-11 center Dragan Tarlac, who's one of the highest paid players in Europe with Greek club Olympiakos.

Russia, playing with the same core that lost to the United States in the finals in '94 — by 46 points — was led by Sergey Panov and Igor Koudellin with 14 points each.

"At the end, there were two great players, Djordjevic and Rebraca, who determined who would win," Russian coach Sergey Belov said.

For the Americans, guard Jimmy Oliver jokingly suggested he would gold plate his bronze medal.

"I'll have my bronze dipped in gold and you guys got the same," he told his teammates.

The Dream Team might have won gold, but this bronze was cherished by a cast of hard-working journeymen who have bounced around the NBA, CBA and European leagues.

They dropped the semifinal Saturday to Russia 66-64, blowing a 10-point lead in the final three minutes, but rebounded better than Greece, which lost to Yugoslavia in overtime 78-73.

"These guys got as much out of what they have as any team I've been around," said Tomjanovich, who has won two NBA titles with the Houston Rockets. "They had to do it in a vacuum with very little media coverage."

"We were the team with the fewest fans here and always in a hostile situa-



Yugoslavia's Dejan Bodiroga kisses the trophy after his team beat Russia 64-62 in the final of the World Basketball Championships Hellas 98, in Athens Sunday. Next to him is Vlado Scepanovic (AP photo)

tion," he added. "We were always hearing in the background, these guys are rejects, those are guys that can't make it. And they hung in there."

Largely ignored at home, one Greek paper termed them the "hint after the wash."



Basketball fans celebrate Yugoslavia's victory over Russian in downtown Belgrade (AP Photo)

All 12 scored led by Jason Sasser's 23, 14 from Jimmy King and 12 by Wendell Alexis, Greece, which shot an abysmal 35 percent overall, was led Dimitri Papanikolaou with 18.

"We're strong individually," said forward Gerard King, who played in Italy last season. "Everybody on our team has been through the rough times. We know what it takes to bounce back and come out swinging."

David Wood, a veteran 33-year-old veteran of 412 NBA games with eight different teams, exemplified the character.

"You always want to set your goals for the gold," he said.

"But I can't think of anything I'm more proud of than this medal. It is probably the greatest accomplishment of my basketball career."

U.S. Ambassador to Greece Nicholas Burns, a fervent basketball fan, even got into the act as he met with U.S. players afterwards.

"They really weren't a team when they got here," he said.

"They came together so much. We should really be proud of them."

It was a bitter day for an 18,000 home sellout at Olympic arena as Greece lost its fifth bronze-medal game in five years — all on Sundays — prompting early editions of Greek newspapers to read "Pote Tin Kiriaki" (Never on Sunday).

Playing off the famous film starring Greek actress Melina Mercouri.

Despite the bronze, the U.S. misses out on an automatic berth in the 2000 Olympics, which will go to Yugoslavia and host Australia.

The Americans will have to play next spring and summer in qualifying tournaments, probably using CBA and college talent.

In consolation play, Spain beat Italy 64-61 for fifth place, while Lithuania edged Argentina 77-76 for seventh.

New NFL faces in new places

BOSTON (AP) — Peyton Manning and Ryan Leaf weren't the only big-name quarterbacks to debut in new places as the NFL's exhibition season got into full swing.

Doug Flutie moved slightly south from Canada to Buffalo. Neil O'Donnell wore Bengals stripes instead of Jets green and Jim Harbaugh took the opposite route of the Colts by going from Indianapolis to Baltimore.

While Harbaugh and Leaf enjoyed success, Flutie, O'Donnell and Manning struggled with their new clubs.

Harbaugh, obtained in an offseason trade from Indianapolis, went 10-for-13 for 60 yards and scrambled twice for 28 yards in Baltimore's 19-14 victory over the Bears. He left with 6:07 left in the second quarter after moving the Ravens 80 yards in 17 plays in a drive that consumed more than 11 minutes and gave Baltimore a 9-0 lead.

"We were playing little ball," Harbaugh said. "We'll try to get the ball downfield more, but we took what they gave us."

In other NFL preseason games, Minnesota beat New England 28-0 in the only game Sunday night.

On Saturday, Pittsburgh topped Buffalo 24-13, the New York Giants defeated Cincinnati 24-17, Miami downed Washington 19-16, Carolina defeated Jacksonville 30-27, Kansas City beat the Tampa Bay 17-13, Denver topped St. Louis 20-13, Green Bay beat New Orleans 30-7, Oakland defeated Dallas 16-3, Seattle defeated Indianapolis 24-21 and San Diego beat San Francisco 27-21.

Flutie played much of the second half of the Bills' loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers. He was 6-of-12 for 44 yards as the Steelers' reserves outscored Buffalo's 14-3 after halftime.

"It's another step forward," said Flutie, who at 36 is returning to the NFL at an age when many quarterbacks are leaving. "It was fun. It was exciting."

O'Donnell, who is battling Jeff Blake for the Bengals starting job, was 6-of-15 for 49 yards. Cincinnati turned the ball over to the Giants four times — leading to all of

their points. "Sloppy," Bengals coach Bruce Coslet said. "The Giants made their run last year leading the league or being second in the turnover ratio, and they continued that unabated tonight. We talk about turnovers all the time. Now we have to start taking about giveaways, and we gave away the ball way too many times."

• **Vikings 28, Patriots 0:** Minnesota's No. 1 pick Randy Moss caught a 44-yard touchdown pass, and last year's top choice, Dwayne Rudd, scored on a 34-yard interception return as Minnesota won at New England.

After neither starting quarterback could move his team, Vikings backup Randall Cunningham threw two touchdown passes and was 9-for-16 passes for 165 yards. He was sacked three times.

Minnesota starter Brad Johnson was 6-for-12 for 40 yards. New England's Drew Bledsoe was 7-for-14 for 74 yards with an interception and three sacks as the Patriots lost for the second time in two exhibition tries.

• **Seahawks 24, Colts 21:** Manning, whose first NFL pass went for a touchdown, was 8-of-15 for 113 yards and was outplayed by Seattle backup Jon Kitna.

After four handoffs to Marshall Faulk on his first series, Manning, the first pick in this year's draft, threw a 48-yard touchdown pass to Marvin Harrison.

Kitna completed 9 of 13 passes for 92 yards, including a 25-yard touchdown pass to Mike Pritchard.

The Seahawks (2-0) played their second game without No. 1 quarterback Warren Moon, who has refused to report to the team's training camp in a contract holdout.

• **Chargers 27, 49ers 21:** Leaf, the No. 2 pick in this year's draft, led two scoring drives for the Chargers — capping one with a 3-yard TD pass to Bryan Still.

Leaf, 14-of-20 for 116 yards, had a more productive night than San Francisco's Steve Young.

Young threw only seven passes, completing three for 20 yards and was sacked once.

• **Dolphins 19, Redskins 16:** Olunde Mare made field goals of 27, 45, 50 and 46 yards in Miami's victory

over Washington. Dolphins quarterback Dan Marino, in his only series, was 6-for-7 for 58 yards, and running back Karim Abdul-Jabbar rushed for 46 yards in eight carries.

Redskins rookie Skip Hicks had 52 yards and a touchdown on nine rushes.

• **Panthers 30, Jaguars 27:** John Kasay, who kicked field goals of 38, 24, 27 and 29 yards in the first half, hit his fifth in as many attempts, a 30-yarder with four seconds left, for the win.

Carolina quarterback Kerry Collins was 16-of-22 for 162 yards and a touchdown and was not intercepted.

• **Broncos 20, Rams 13:** With John Elway in Minnesota with his ailing wife, backup quarterback Bobby Brister produced 13 first-half points for Denver.

Brister was 13-for-22 for 181 yards and a touchdown, and helped set up two field goals by Jason Elam.

Rookie Brian Griese, who also saw extensive playing time, was 10-for-15 for 123 yards.

• **Packers 31, Saints 7:** Travis Jervy rushed nine times for 100 yards and two touchdowns for the Packers (2-0).

Jervy has rushed 14 times for 172 yards during the preseason, an average of more than 12 yards per carry.

Packers quarterback Brett Favre, who was only 1-of-5 for two yards and a fumble against Kansas City last week, completed all seven of his passes for 86 yards and a touchdown.

• **Chiefs 17, Buccaneers 13:** Kansas City receiver Chris Ortiz recovered a Tampa Bay fumble in the end zone with 44 seconds left, giving the Chiefs (1-1) a wild victory in the first exhibition game at the University of Oklahoma since 1976.

• **Raiders 16, Cowboys 3:** Jeff George was 6-of-11 for 128 yards and one touchdown in one quarter as he helped make Jon Gruden's Oakland coaching debut a success.

Dallas' Troy Aikman was only 1-of-6 for six yards in his brief appearance. Backup Jason Garrett was 5-of-9 for 32 yards for the Cowboys (0-2).

FIFA confirms Poland escaped suspension

ZURICH (AP) —

Poland escaped suspension by FIFA with a last-minute move to comply with a deadline for the reinstatement of suspended administrators.

World soccer's governing body said Monday.

Polish clubs and the national side could have been banned from all international competitions starting Monday.

FIFA and UEFA, the European governing body, had threatened to suspend Poland indefinitely if Polish soccer administrators suspended in May were not reinstated by midnight Friday.

"FIFA and UEFA will continue to study the situation within the Polish Football Association," FIFA said in a brief statement.

Sports Minister Jacek Debski said Saturday he sent a fax to FIFA 15 minutes before the dead-

line informing it the suspensions had been lifted.

The move came after the administrators agreed to an investigation into allegations of mismanagement.

The administrators had previously claimed they were independent of state controls and had refused to accept the sports ministry's appointment of a control board supervisor to examine their records.

Debski said he now expects voluntary dismissal of Soccer Federation President Marian Dziurowicz, which would open the way for reforming Polish soccer.

On Saturday, five scheduled first division games were cancelled in protest of Dziurowicz's failure to quit immediately.

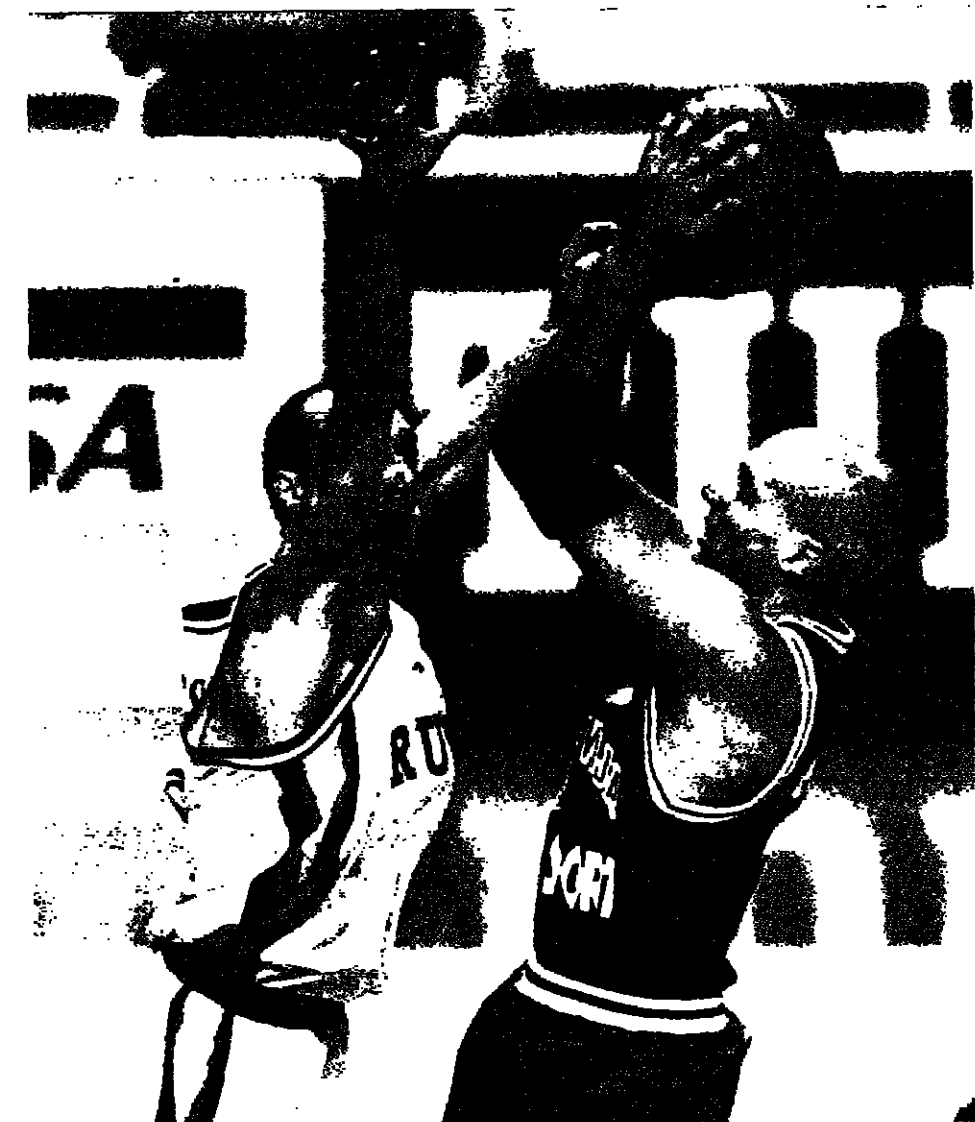
The soccer federation, which is to meet

Wednesday, will decide on Dziurowicz's dismissal, the federation says.

Poland's national team, which achieved successes in 1970s and early 1980s, has not qualified for soccer's World Cup since 1982.

Debski blames administrators and soccer activists for corruption among players and referees, lack of training facilities and programs.

Polish club LKS Lodz can now look forward to a Champions League qualifying match against Manchester United on Wednesday.



Yugoslavia's Sasa Obradovic, right, tries to score as Russia's Yassili Karashev tries to stop him during a game Russia vs Yugoslavia for the final of the World Basketball Championships Hellas 98, in Athens (AP Photo)

THEATRE	TIME	SHOWS
PHILADELPHIA '1'	7:00 PM	Leonardo DiCaprio... in THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30
PHILADELPHIA '2'	7:00 PM	Comedian Adel Imam... in AL ZA'EEM Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
PLAZA	7:00 PM	Comedian Adel Imam... in AL ZA'EEM Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30
CONCORD	7:00 PM	CONCORD II Adel Imam & Yusra... in LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR Shows: 12:30, 6:00, 10:30 DRACULA Shows: 12:30, 6:00, 10:30 DUMB & DUMBER Shows: 12:30, 6:00, 10:30
GALLERIA 1	7:00 PM	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria Comedian Adel Imam... in AL ZA'EEM Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30
GALLERIA 2	7:00 PM	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria Comedian Adel Imam... in AL ZA'EEM Shows: 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30
Hisham Yanes Theatre	7:00 PM	STARTING JULY 13TH The Authority in the Service of the People Starring Hisham Yanes and the group For reservations call: 4640155, 4625155

in Australia hoists the flag of the Netherlands in the final of the World Cup (AP photo)

After wins

ANTWERP (AP) — Patrick Rafter became the first Australian to win the Wimbledon singles title Sunday, defeating Andre Agassi 6-3, 6-1, 6-0.

Rafter, 26, had a clean sweep in the final, defeating Agassi, 26, in six sets. Rafter's victory was his first since 1993.

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Patrick Rafter of Australia hoists the trophy following his 7-6, 6-4 victory over Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands in the final of the du Maurier Open tennis tournament (AP photo)

Rafter wins Toronto Open

TORONTO (AP) — Patrick Rafter became the first player in 10 years to win the du Maurier Open without losing a set Sunday when he beat Richard Krajicek 7-6 (7-3), 6-4.

The 25-year-old Australian had a clean slate in five matches, matching Ivan Lendl's feat accomplished in 1988.

Krajicek, who had victories in six of seven matches against Rafter entering the final, had lived by the serve and volley in his previous matches against Rafter. Krajicek entered the final leading the entire du Maurier field with 64 aces but was limited to dealing 10 to Rafter, putting only 59 per cent of first serves in play.

"I couldn't punish him on my serve," Krajicek said. "That's a shame."

Both players held serve their first six times in the first set, setting up the tiebreaker, where Krajicek began to struggle. Rafter scored minibreaks all three times Krajicek missed his first serve to take the tiebreaker 7-3.

The Dutchman also struggled on his groundstrokes. His weak backhand seldom cleared the net and his forehand, usually a

terror to opposing players, faded as well.

"He really destroys me a lot with that forehand and the times that I did go there I got lucky on them," Rafter said.

"I went there at the right times," said Krajicek. "I count on my forehand more and it really let me down."

Krajicek broke Rafter to go up 3-1 in the second set, but he lost his serve the very next game, with two consecutive double-faults that gave Rafter a break. Rafter broke Krajicek again for a 4-3 lead and the two players traded holds to give Rafter a 5-4 lead. Rafter then held at love to win the set 6-4.

"He was mixing up his serve pretty good," Krajicek said.

"He was all over the place, quick and slow, and it made it a lot tougher for me," Rafter, who defends his U.S. Open title in a few weeks, earned \$ 361,000 and will move from fifth to third in the ATP world rankings Monday. He also became the first Australian to win this event since John Newcombe in 1971, two years before Rafter was born.

Krajicek received \$ 190,000.

Italian prosecutor summons outspoken Roma coach

ROME (AP) — An Italian prosecutor has summoned the coach of AS Roma, Zdenek Zeman, to hear his allegations that a number of top league Italian soccer players may use performance-enhancing drugs.

Zeman, a Czech, will meet Wednesday with prosecutor Raffaele Guariniello in Turin, a day after questioning in Rome by officials of the Italian Olympic Committee.

Guariniello has been investigating doping in sports for several years, as well as other health-related issues.

"I'm at everyone's disposal for the good of soccer," Zeman was quoted Monday as saying in Gazzetta dello Sport, the Italian sports daily.

In interviews with several newspapers and the newsweekly Espresso over the past days, Zeman said he was amazed by the quick muscular development of some players such as Alessandro Del Piero and Gianluca Vialli.

Zeman never mentioned doping substances openly. He always referred to medicines.

Del Piero, a Juventus star, instructed his agent to sue for libel.

Vialli, a former player of Juventus and currently Chelsea's player-coach in the English Premier League, angrily said Zeman is a "terrorist trying to destabilise the soccer world."

Arab Junior Swimming Championships

Jordan wins 1st bronze medal

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's Sadeq Damrah Monday captured the first bronze medal for Jordan after securing third place in the 100m breaststroke clocking 1:15.20 on the opening day of the 5th Arab Junior Swimming Championships at Al Hussein Youth City with 12 countries taking part in swimming, water polo and diving competitions.

Only five seconds stood between Damrah and first place Egypt's Ahmed Khouli who clocked 1:10.70. Morocco's Younes Marabet came second with 1:13.29.

As expected Egypt are here for the gold as they took first places in the boys 50m butterfly with 25.81 seconds by Wael Dwaider while Jordan's Loai Haqi came sixth clocking 28.61. Yasmeen Abu Alez in the girls clocked 1:00:66 100m freestyle while Jordan's Hiba Nasser came 12th with 01:10.11.

Jordan's Sandi Zraiq came fourth with 01:12.58. Ahmed Shadli came first in the 50m butterfly with 26.90 while Jordan's Saed Al Nasser came in the 6th place with :0.26.

Algeria took the gold medal in the boys 50m butterfly by Raouf Ben Obaid with 27.94 while Jordan's Saher Al Rabadi came in the 7th place with a time of 33.44.

Coach Ali Nawwas expressed his satisfaction with

some results but hoped to do better on the second day. Egypt's coach Majdi Mansour noted his happiness with the organisation.

"I am happy with the things the federation prepared and we hope to get more gold medals," Mansour told the Jordan Times.

"Jordan's swimmers need to gain more international experience," he added.

Meanwhile Damrah, winner of the first Jordanian medal said that he was surprised of the win.

"I was totally surprised of the result because I was concentrating on swimming and did not look around to check the clock," Damrah told the Jordan Times.

"It is not easy to swim against Egypt but when there is a will there is a way," he added.

The August 10-16 event groups swimmers from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt, Algeria, Oman, Iraq, Syria, Qatar, Tunisia, Palestine, Morocco in addition to Jordan.

Held under the Patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Rania, the event is the first of many in preparation for the upcoming Pan-Arab Games which will be held in Amman 1999.

Coach Nawwas added that still we need more time to improve our swimming technique so we can compete on the Arab level.

"Time also is moving for others and that is why we have to move faster so we at least level with the Arabs," he said.

Baggio looks forward to Euro 2000

APPIANO GENTILE, Italy (AFP) — Roberto Baggio warned his rivals on Monday that he is hungry for success with both Inter Milan and the national side this season.

Inter will be pitching for the Serie A title and the European Champions League, but the 31-year-old also wants to keep his place in the national squad for the forthcoming Euro 2000 qualifiers.

He shied away from choosing one of the three objectives over the others saying: "I don't want to choose or to put them in any order."

"The important thing is to aim for all three and perhaps, with the help of the squad, it will go well on all three fronts."

After a year with Bologna, Baggio will be playing alongside Ronaldo in a team which is packed with World Cup performers and talented youngsters.

"There's no doubt about, this is a great group of players," Baggio said at Inter's training ground here. "They're very good technically and they're modest with it, and I think that's fundamental for any team."

Baggio's first official outing for Inter will be in Wednesday's Champions League preliminary round tie against Skonto Riga of Latvia.

"The Champions League is a very important objective for us, and let's hope we make a good start," he said. "We've seen some tapes (of Skonto Riga) but we'll study them more closely today and tomorrow."

Meanwhile, he is anxious to avoid complacency for the first leg at Pisa.

"You have to be careful against any club in the European Cup," he warned. "There are no easy games, and if you underestimate a side that you don't know well you could end up with a very nasty surprise. "We cannot afford to make a single mistake."

Though a goal would be an ideal way to start his new life with Inter, Baggio tried to play down his own contribution.

"I've only played 60 minutes of football so far, so I think the most important thing is that we get a good result as a team," he said. "My own personal performance is something

that I'm overly interested in."

He went on: "I'm working very hard in training at the moment because I arrived here after most of the other players."

"But I feel pretty good and I think I can give a bit of experience and a bit of reassurance to the team, even though there are some great players here who won't need any of that."

Baggio gets his second bite at Europe's top competition, after a particularly brief and disappointing campaign with city rivals AC Milan in the autumn of 1996, when they failed to get past the group phase.

"It's my second experience of the Champions League, let's hope it lasts longer than the first," he quipped.

But he added more seriously: "That was with a different team, it was a few years ago and for me it's in the past. At the moment, the only thing on my mind is Inter."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMAR HIRSCH

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q. 1 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
- AS 83 Q 83 J 5 4 K Q J 5 2
- Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?
- A - With only nine points in high cards, your hand does not measure up to a two-over-one response of two clubs. That leaves you with only one option — a raise to two spades. Whether you play four- or five-card majors has no bearing on the response.
- Q. 2 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
- AS 10 8 6 6 OAK 10 9 4 3 4 Q 9 8
- Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?
- A - You don't have much in the way of high cards, but you do have a good six-card minor and a singleton spade. If you don't get into the auction now, it will be too dangerous to do so later. Bid two diamonds.
- Q. 3 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
- AS 10 8 5 4 OAK J 8 5 OAK J 9 7 4 Void
- Your right-hand opponent opens one club. What action do you take?
- A - You have a hand with support for the three unbid suits and defensive values into the bargain. Despite the low high-card count, this is a classic takeout double, and nothing else should be considered.
- Q. 4 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
- 4 Q 8 3 5 6 3 O 8 6 3 2 4 K 5 2
- The bidding has proceeded: NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST 10 Pass 14 Pass 20 Pass 7
- What action do you take?
- A - You barely had enough to scrape up a response, and now that you have surely located at least a 4-4 fit, there is no reason to think of any other spot. Pass.
- Q. 5 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
- 4 A Q 7 A OAK J 8 8 6 4 2 7 3
- Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one club. What do you bid now?
- A - The textbook way to handle this monster is to double, then jump in diamonds at your next turn. However, should you wish to gamble that the opponents cannot run at least five clubs on the go and bid three no trump, we admire your courage.
- Q. 6 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
- AS 5 2 O 8 OAK Q 7 6 4 3 4 A 8
- The bidding has proceeded: WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH Pass 10 Pass 10
- What do you respond?
- A - Even though you have only 13 high-card points and a singleton in partner's suit, your self-sustaining diamond suit and side ace are enough to justify a jump shift. Bid three diamonds. Unless partner rebids three no trump, your intent should be to rebid four diamonds next to describe a powerful one-suiter.

Davenport downs injured Pierce in San Diego final

SAN DIEGO (AFP) — Lindsay Davenport won her second title in two weeks Sunday, overwhelming an ailing Mary Pierce 6-3, 6-1 to claim the WTA Tour event here.

Second-seeded Davenport collected \$79,000, and Pierce received \$36,000 for her runner-up finish.

Pierce, who had upset top seed Martina Hingis in the semifinals, suffered a pulled muscle in her right thigh as she practiced for the final, and twice received treatment in the 52 minute match.

She could make only a token effort against her American opponent and Davenport was never stretched. She broke twice in each set and conceded only six points on serve.

"In the first couple of games I didn't think anything was wrong because she was serving well," said Davenport. "But as the match went on you could definitely tell that the groin was bothering her and she wasn't really running for balls. It's a little bitter-sweet to win a title like that."

Often, an injury to a player can distract their opponent and put more pressure on them, and that is something Davenport had to tackle.

"It's tough," said Davenport. "I'm thinking I've got to win this, and then I was thinking is she going to retire. It was so difficult to play. It was more of a mental match. You're trying to play and not worry about anything. I was really happy



Lindsay Davenport

when I broke her again for 4-1 (in the second set) because I didn't want to give her chance to get back into the match."

"I was quite upset about it after the match," said Pierce. "In the match I tried to do what I could with it. I'm frustrated because I've been hav-

ing a great week and getting better and better every day. But it's part of sports, part of tennis, and it's out of your control."

Pierce said she never considered withdrawing, even though the injury affected every aspect of her game.

"It affected everything," she said. "Serves, moving. To play against someone like Lindsay you have to be at the top of your game and feel that you can complete. But I have to give Lindsay credit because it's not easy to play against someone that you know is injured."

Davenport's victory takes her another step closer to topping Martina Hingis from the number one ranking. Since boasting at the French Open that she had a comfortable lead over everyone else, Hingis now has both Davenport and Novotna breathing down her neck.

"To take over number one I'm going to have to step up my performances in Grand Slams," said Davenport.

"It's not really in my mind. But I think it's funny, because about six months ago I was about 3000 points behind and it's 500 or 600 now."

"It's sort of a dream, but if I'm going to do it I'm probably going to have to win the U.S. Open. I hadn't really thought about it because she's been so far ahead of everybody. There's still a lot of points between us, but it's pretty obtainable, I guess."

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